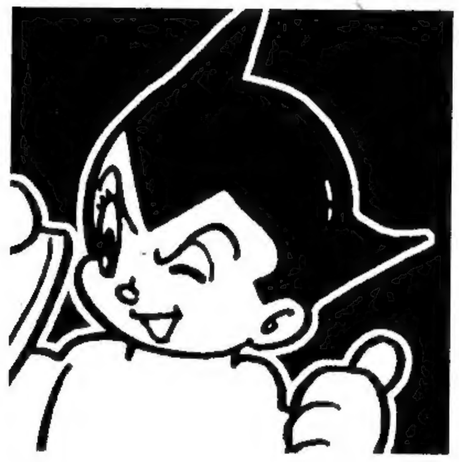
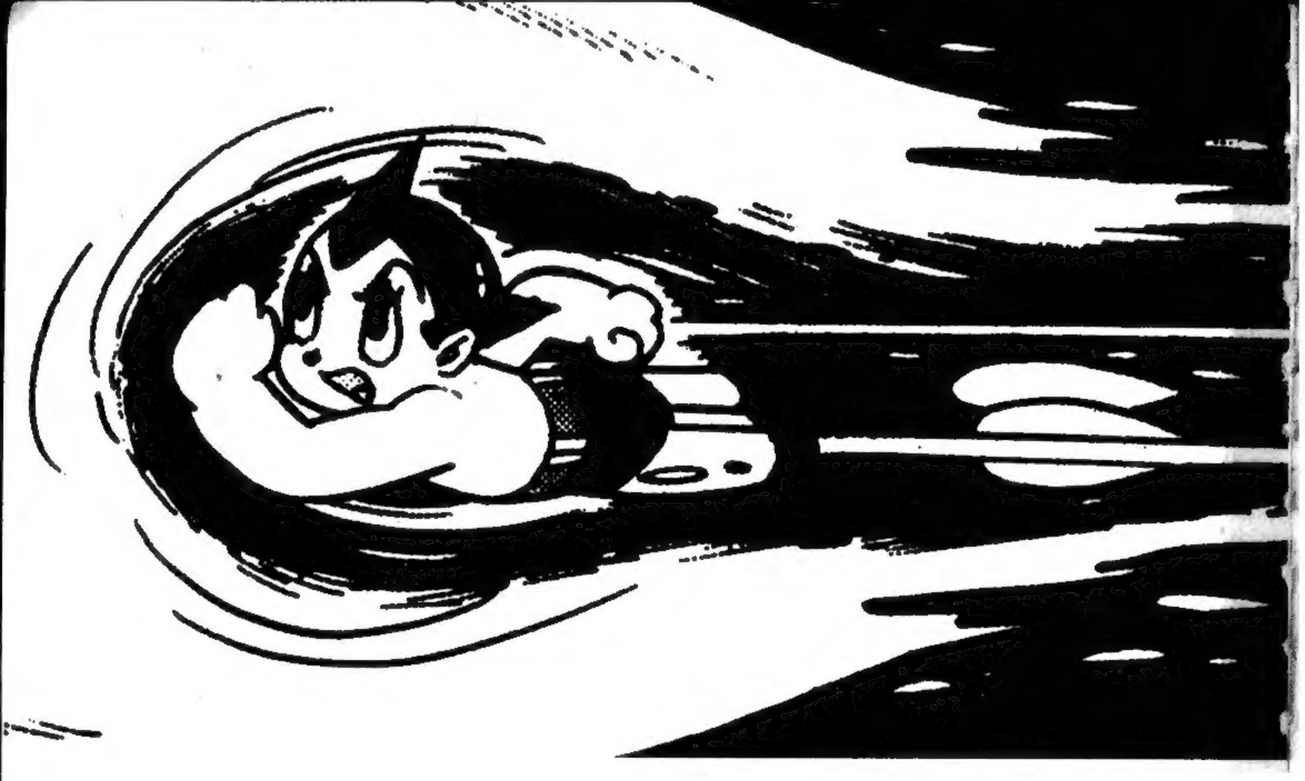
19

Osamu Tezuka's Original

ASTRO BOY®





ASTRO BOY®

19

by

Osamu Tezuka

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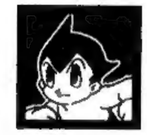


BLUE KNIGHT

First serialized from October 1965 to March 1966 in *Shonen* magazine.

SMASH THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY!

BOOO!

BOO!

RIOT POLICE GO HOME!

AROUND 1966 OR '67, MANGA THEMES STARTED TO GET A LITTLE MORE HARD-EDGED, MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE STUDENT MOVEMENT. REBELS AND LONE-WOLF TYPES BECAME MORE AND MORE POPULAR AS HEROES...

SOME PEOPLE SAID MY HEROES, IN PARTICULAR, WERE TOO OPTIMISTIC, TOO UPBEAT, AND ACTED AS "CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE" TOO MUCH.

NONSENSE!

NONSENSE!

I THINK IT REFLECTED A REACTION TO AMERICAN-STYLE DEMOCRACY...

...AND A GENERAL LOSS OF FAITH IN JAPANESE POLITICS AND SOCIETY...

GO HOME!

ASTRO BOY'S AN *ANACHRONISM!* WE DON'T NEED A CHAMPION OF JUSTICE LIKE HIM!

IT MADE ME SAD WHEN I HEARD PEOPLE SAY SUCH THINGS...

...BUT I WAS CONVINCED MY APPROACH WAS RIGHT.

AFTER ALL, THE *ASTRO BOY* ANIMATED TV SERIES WAS AIRING AROUND THE WORLD THEN, AND IT WAS EXTREMELY WELL RECEIVED.

SPAIN
UNITED KINGDOM
HOLLAND
ITALY
GERMANY
KOREA
HONG KONG
TAIWAN
SINGAPORE
THAILAND
MALAYSIA
NIGERIA
TANZANIA
ZAMBIA
SOUTH AFRICA
ANGOLA
AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND
ALASKA
CANADA
UNITED STATES
MEXICO
COLOMBIA
VENEZUELA
BRAZIL
CHILE
ARGENTINA

LISTEN, DR. TEZUKA... YOU REALLY OUGHTA CHANGE ASTRO BOY! MAKE HIM A ***BAD*** KID INSTEAD OF A GOODY TWO-SHOES ALL THE TIME!

EDITOR IN CHARGE OF *ASTRO BOY*...

B-BUT ...

YOU SHOULD CREATE A TOTALLY NEW MOOD FOR ASTRO!

MAKE HIM MORE VIOLENT!

HAVE HIM KILL PEOPLE!

SMASH MORE BUILD-INGS!

BUT, GOSH...

...THEN HE'D BECOME A ***BAD GUY...***

EXACTLY! MAKE HIM ***EVIL!***

THAT'D BE MORE INTERESTING!! *HEH HEH!*

AFTER LISTENING TO MY EDITOR, I DECIDED TO CREATE THE STORIES "BLUE KNIGHT" AND "THE MELANIN TRIBE" WITH A DIFFERENT KIND OF ASTRO...

I CAN'T DO THIS! I JUST CAN'T DRAW THESE STORIES!

I DON'T WANT TO MAKE ASTRO A BAD GUY!!

AFTER I CHANGED ASTRO'S PERSONALITY, HIS POPULARITY PLUMMETED BEFORE MY EYES. IT WAS TOO LATE...

HEY, DON'T LOOK AT ME, MAN... IT'S NOT MY FAULT... SEE YA LATER...

Y-YOU ***COWARD!!***

ASTRO BOY WILL ***ALWAYS*** BE A CHAMPION OF JUSTICE!

GOSH, DR. TEZUKA... I WANNA BE LIKE I USED TO BE... I WANNA BE A FRIEND TO HUMANS...

DON'T WORRY, ASTRO... I'LL NEVER BE SWAYED LIKE THAT AGAIN!

THE STUDENT MOVEMENT EVENTUALLY DIED DOWN, BUT EVEN ASTRO HAD BEEN SWEPT UP IN THE EMOTIONS OF THE TIMES...

SO I MADE ASTRO AGAIN LIKE HE USED TO BE --A ***CHAMPION*** OF ***JUSTICE...*** BUT IT WAS HARD FOR HIM TO GET HIS POPULARITY BACK...

BOYS 'N GIRLS... THIS SEMESTER...

...WE'VE GOT A *NEW FRIEND* JOINING US...

HEY, IT'S A *ROBOT*!

THEY SAY HE'S CALLED *TONTO*...

SHIB-UGAKI!

PAY ATTEN-TION!!

HEH HEH..

NOW, WHAT'S WITH THE TONGUE, *EH?*

DO THAT ONE MORE TIME...

CLICK

I'M PASTING THIS PHOTO UP HERE FOR A MONTH! DON'T ANYONE TOUCH IT, OKAY?

YOU CAN SIT NEXT TO ASTRO, TONTO...

THAT BLASTED *NEW KID!!*

HI, I'M ASTRO. LET'S BE FRIENDS, OKAY?

OKAY!

GOSH, TEACHER, WE'VE GOT TOO MANY ROBOTS IN OUR CLASS ALREADY, WITH ASTRO BOY...

WELL, MAYBE WE'VE GOT TOO MANY *HUMANS*, TOO!

AW...

ROBOTS'RE MADE TO *WORK!* SO YOU C'N DO THE CLASS CLEANING TODAY ALL BY YERSELF!!

MAKE EVERYTHING *CLEANER!*

HAR HAR HAR HAR

HEY, WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?!

THERE'S AN INTERESTING ARTICLE IN THE PAPER...

'GIMME THIS THING... ...*HMPH*... "THE MYSTERIOUS BLUE KNIGHT... ROBOT OR HUMAN?"

"A MYSTERIOUS MAN LOOKING LIKE A BLUE KNIGHT HAS SUDDENLY APPEARED IN A DIAMOND MINE IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA..."

SO YOU'RE THE SUPERVISOR... I HEAR YOU'RE MISTREATING YOUR ROBOT EMPLOYEES AROUND HERE!

WITH THAT GETUP YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE OUT OF A 70MM MOVIE! WHO ARE YOU, AN' WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

GIVE YOUR ROBOTS A REST... *NOW!*

GIVE ROBOTS A REST!? ARE YOU *NUTS?!*

OUT OF THE WAY, WEIRDO, OR WE'LL *FLATTEN* YOU!!

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

CHARGE!

KABOOM

HE SMASHED OUR STEAMROLLER! H-HE'S GOTTA BE A *ROBOT!!*

OKAY, MEN! IF HE'S A ROBOT, LET'S SHOW HIM A THING OR TWO!

AIEEE! THE HOOVES'RE *FLAME THROWERS!*

HAALP!

ARGH!

AIEE!

SMASH

KABF

SAYS HERE, AFTER COMPLETELY SMASHING THE DIAMOND DIG, THE BLUE KNIGHT ROBOT *VANISHED*, LEAVING TWELVE PEOPLE *DEAD* BEHIND HIM....

THIS IS *TERRIBLE!* A ROBOT THAT DOESN'T THINK TWICE ABOUT KILLING PEOPLE!

WOW...

CLOP CLOPPITY CLOP CLOPPITY CLOP

CLOPPITY CLOP CLOP CLOPPITY

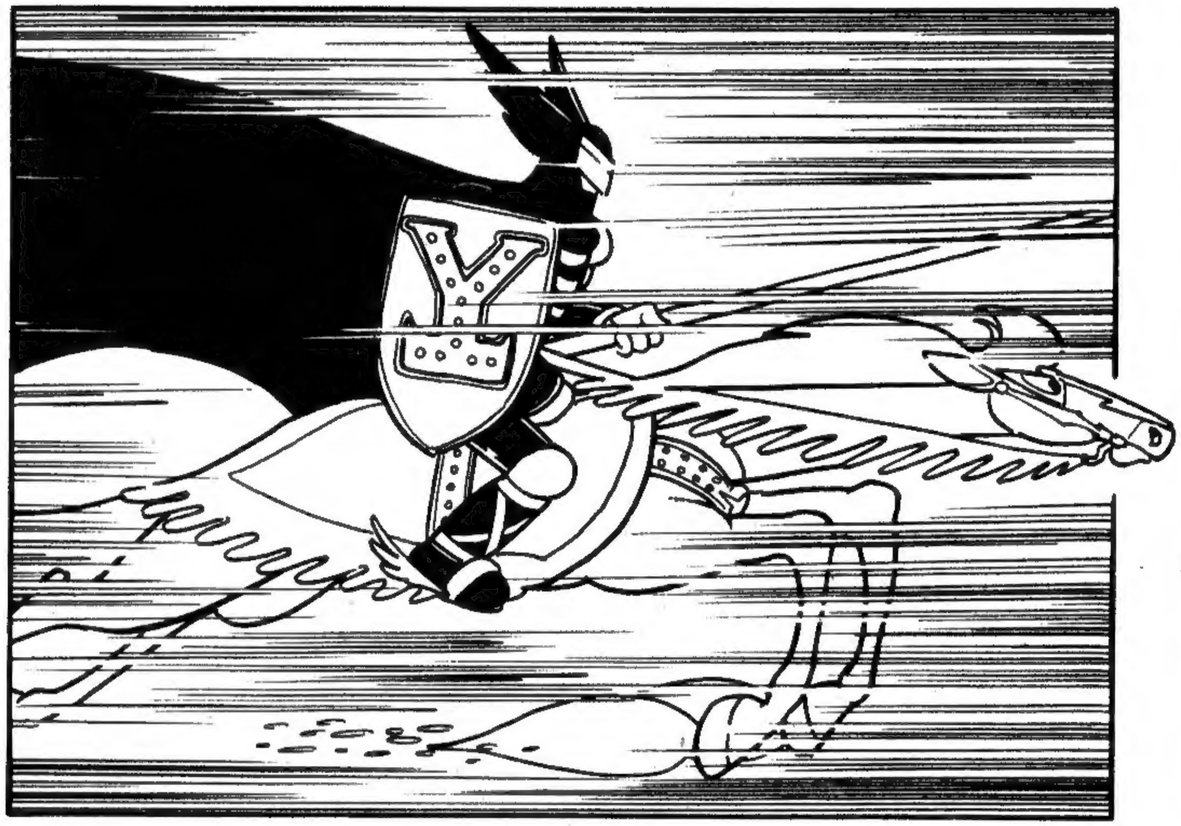
LET THE WIND BLOW! LET THUNDER ROAR! NOTHING WILL STOP ME NOW!

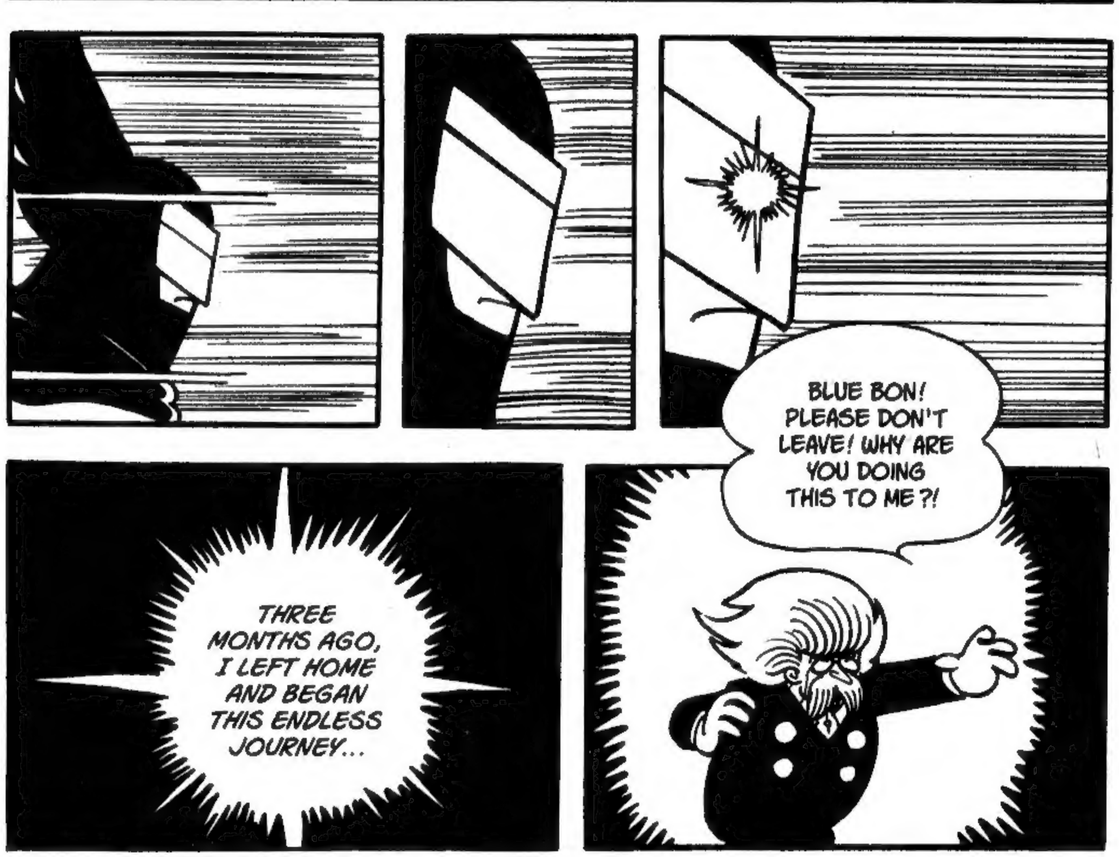
I SHALL NOW PUT MY PLAN TO DEFEND ROBOTS INTO ACTION!

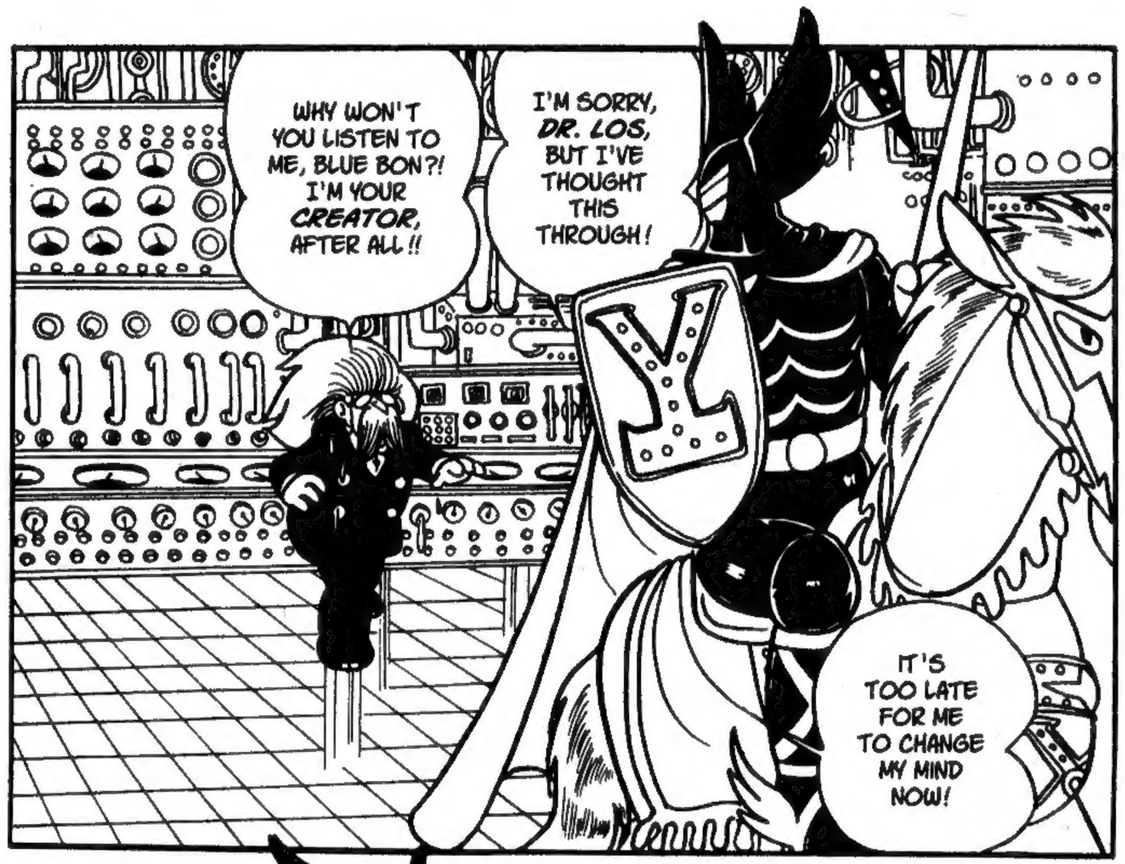
LIFT OFF!

VOOOSH

ROOARR




BLUE BON! PLEASE DON'T LEAVE! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME?!
THREE MONTHS AGO, I LEFT HOME AND BEGAN THIS ENDLESS JOURNEY...


WHY WON'T YOU LISTEN TO ME, BLUE BON?! I'M YOUR CREATOR, AFTER ALL!!
I'M SORRY, DR. LOS, BUT I'VE THOUGHT THIS THROUGH!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME TO CHANGE MY MIND NOW!

ROBOTS ARE OPPR-ESSED BY THE ROBOT LAW!
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS WE WANT TO DO THAT WE CAN'T!
"ROBOTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO HURT OR KILL HUMANS..."
"ROBOTS WERE CREATED TO SERVE HUMANS..."
"ROBOTS HAVE TO CALL THE PERSON WHO CREATED THEM, 'FATHER'..."
"AND ALTHOUGH ROBOTS CAN MAKE ANYTHING, THEY'RE NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE MONEY!"

"ROBOTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO GO OVERSEAS WITHOUT PERMISSION!"

I WANNA BE RE-BORN AS A ♀!

"AND MALE AND FEMALE ROBOTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO SWITCH GENDER!"

"ROBOTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO CHANGE FACES WITHOUT PERMISSION OR TO ADOPT OTHER IDENTITIES..."

"ROBOTS ORIGINALLY MADE AS ADULTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO BECOME CHILDREN!"

"ROBOTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO PUT BACK TOGETHER ROBOTS THAT HUMANS HAVE TAKEN APART!"

"ROBOTS AREN'T ALLOWED TO SMASH HUMAN HOUSES OR TOOLS!"

THE ROBOT LAW FORBIDS *ALL* THESE THINGS!

BUT I'VE HAD *ENOUGH!*

I'VE DECIDED TO SMASH THE ROBOT LAW FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL, DR. LOS!

B-BUT THAT'S CRAZY! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP!

EVEN HUMANS HAVE TO OBEY *LAWS!* AND THEY *DO!!*

HUMANS OBEY LAWS BECAUSE THE LAWS ARE GOOD FOR HUMANS! THEY MADE THE ROBOT LAW FOR THEMSELVES!

I'M GOING TO MAKE A *NEW ROBOT LAW*, FOR *ROBOTS!*

TAKE YOURSELF AS AN EXAMPLE!

YOU *CREATED* ME!

I'VE ALWAYS CALLED YOU *FATHER...*

BUT FROM NOW ON, I *WON'T* ...

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU CALL ME, BUT DO YOU REALLY HAVE TO LEAVE?

YES. *FAREWELL*, DR. LOS!

KABOOM

VROOOM

AH, BLUE BON!

JUST DON'T HURT ANY HUMANS! I BEG YOU!

PLEASE, BLUE BON...

A ROBOT THAT *KILLS HUMANS!* THIS IS *WILD!*

WOW!

YEAH, UNDER THE ROBOT LAW, ROBOTS AREN'T EVEN S'POSED TO HIT PEOPLE, RIGHT?!

YEAH! ROBOTS CAN'T DEFY HUMANS!!

OH, *YES* WE CAN!!

YOU JUST SAY SOME-THING, TONTO?

YEAH! I SAID WE *CAN!*

HM... YOU CAN, *EH?* THINK YOU CAN HIT A HUMAN, TONTO?

JUST *TRY* 'N HIT ME! GO AHEAD!

WELL?! WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR?!

SLAM

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO HIT PEOPLE!

CRASH
BAM
THUD
AHAW?
WAAAHHH!! WAAAH!
TEACHER! SOMETHING AWFUL'S HAPPENED!
YEAH! TONTO HIT SHIB!
HELLO? HELLO? OLLEH OLLEH? PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU? WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY!
WHAT? REALLY? HMM... ROBOT? A HUMAN? HMM...
I UNDERSTAND, BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! LISTEN, WHO IS THIS TONTO BOY, ANYWAY?
HE TRANSFERRED HERE... THAT'S RIGHT... NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE TONTO'S FROM...
OKAY... WELL, KEEP AN EYE ON HIM... I'LL TRY TO CHECK HIM OUT MYSELF SOON...
HMM. A ROBOT THAT HITS HUMANS!

HMM... A MYSTERIOUS BLUE KNIGHT AND A ROBOT KID NAMED TONTO... I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON?
HEY, TONTO!
WHO WOULD MAKE ROBOTS LIKE THAT?
DID YOU REALLY HIT SHIB?!
YEAH...
BUT YOU'RE NOT S'POSED TO!!
WHY NOT?! HE ASKED ME TO HIT HIM!!
BUT WE ROBOTS CAN'T HURT PEOPLE! WE HAVE TO JUST PUT UP WITH STUFF, TONTO!
YOU MEAN ROBOTS CAN'T DO ANYTHING, NO MATTER HOW AWFUL HUMANS TREAT US?!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!!

WE'RE MACHINES, RIGHT? WELL, HUMANS ARE DELICATE, AND IF WE HIT 'EM, WE *HURT* 'EM!!

AN' IF WE HIT THEM *REALLY* HARD, THEY CAN EVEN DIE!!

THAT'S WHY WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO HIT HUMANS!

IF WE BREAK DOWN, WE CAN BE REPAIRED AND BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE, BUT NOT HUMANS... THEY'RE LIVING THINGS, AND ONCE THEY DIE, THAT'S IT!

MEANWHILE...

AT A ROBOT REPROCESSING CENTER NEAR NEW DELHI, IN INDIA...

TONTO!

SIND

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE, ASTRO...

WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T THE *BLUE KNIGHT*...

MY TRUE NAME IS *BLUE BON!* I HAVE COME TO DESTROY THIS ROBOT SCRAP YARD, AND I DON'T WANT ANY *INTERFERENCE!*

WELL, BLUE BON-BON! I AM *SS18*, AND I GUARD THIS PLACE! DON'T EVEN THINK OF CAUSING TROUBLE HERE! LEAVE *NOW!*

YOU DESPICABLE SLAVE!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

YOU SHOULD LEAVE! I HAVE NO FIGHT TO PICK WITH SLAVES LIKE YOU!

YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE ME ON FIRST, BLUE KNIGHT, BEFORE YOU LAY SO MUCH AS A FINGER ON THIS PLACE!

VOOSH VOOSH VOOSH VOOSH VOOSH

BAM BAM

BAM BAM BAM

CHAK

THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO, SS18?

VOMP VOMP VOMP VOMP BOOM

ROOAAR

WHAT AN *IDIOT!* THAT BLEW HIM TO SMITHER-EENS!

SHOOONK

WHAT THE--?!

AAAARRGGGGH!

KABOOOOOM

I WARNED YOU, YOU PATHETIC ROBOT!
NOW, UNLESS SOMEONE ELSE WANTS TO TAKE ME ON...
...I SHALL BEGIN SMASHING THE FACTORY!
SMASH
SMASH
SMASH

CLIPPITY CLOP CLIPPITY CLOP
THE MOST ADVANCED ROBOT RE-PROCESSING CENTER IN ASIA, IN THE SUBURBS OF NEW DELHI, IN INDIA, HAS BEEN ATTACKED!
THE CULPRIT IS BELIEVED TO BE NONE OTHER THAN BLUE KNIGHT, WHO HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS SO MUCH LATELY. AFTER SMASHING THE PLANT, HE VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE!
THE BLUE KNIGHT HAS THUS FAR ATTACKED OVER THIRTY-THREE PLACES AROUND THE WORLD!
WHERE WILL HE APPEAR NEXT?! THIS VERY MOMENT, POLICE DEPARTMENTS A ROUND THE WORLD ARE DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR HIM!
WHO'S THE BLUE KNIGHT, ASTRO?
NOBODY REALLY KNOWS YET, URAN...
IS HE A GOOD ROBOT OR A BAD ONE? A FRIEND OR AN ENEMY?
DON'T ASK SO MANY QUESTIONS, URAN! IT'S TIME TO GO TO SLEEP!

WHAT THE--?!

WHAT'S THAT?!

IT... IT'S THE *BLUE KNIGHT!!*

YOU'RE THE BLUE KNIGHT WE'VE BEEN HEARING SO MUCH ABOUT, RIGHT? WHY'VE YOU COME TO MY HOUSE?

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU, ASTRO BOY!

TALK TO ME? ABOUT WHAT?!

I WANT YOU TO JOIN FORCES WITH ME...

YOU *WHAT?!*

I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU ARE THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED ROBOT, ASTRO BOY!

I HAVE THEREFORE PERSONALLY COME TO ASK YOU TO JOIN ME...

LISTEN TO ME, ASTRO! HUMANS ARE LAZY AND IGNORANT BEASTS! NOW IS THE TIME FOR US ROBOTS TO UNITE, AND RISE UP AGAINST THEM!

ARE YOU *CRAZY* ?!

LET ME ASK YOU, ASTRO BOY... ARE YOU HAPPY?

FOR US ROBOTS, THE TRUE PATH TO HAPPINESS LIES IN CREATING OUR OWN ROBOT KINGDOM!

THINK OF THE *JEWS*, WHO SUFFERED SO LONG!

THEY UNITED AND WERE ABLE TO CREATE A LAND FOR THEM-SELVES CALLED *ISRAEL!!*

WELL, I'M GOING TO CREATE A LAND FOR *ROBOTS*, BUT I NEED YOUR HELP, ASTRO BOY! I NEED YOU TO JOIN FORCES WITH ME!

WHICH WILL IT BE? JOIN ME...

...OR CONTINUE TO SERVE THE HUMANS AS THEIR SLAVE?!

BUT ROBOTS *AREN'T* SLAVES!

WE'RE *FREE!*

THINK IT OVER... I WILL RETURN FOR YOUR ANSWER ANOTHER DAY...

NO, ASTRO BOY...

AS LONG AS THERE IS A ROBOT LAW, ROBOTS WILL ALWAYS BE SLAVES!

WAIT!!

I CAN'T LET YOU LEAVE LIKE THIS! YOU'RE STILL PLANNING TO *HURT* AND MAYBE EVEN *KILL* HUMANS, AREN'T YOU?!

AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

IF YOU'RE GOING TO HURT PEOPLE, I CAN'T LET YOU GO!

I'LL STOP YOU *MYSELF!*

OUT OF THE WAY, ASTRO BOY!

NEVER!!

YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE!

ROAR

VOOOSH

ROAAR

I'VE HAD *ENOUGH* OF YOU, ASTRO BOY!

OOOSH

OH, *NO* YOU HAVEN'T!

AIEEE!

HA HA HA! YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT *ME*, ASTRO BOY?

HE'S GOT MORE ENERGY THAN I HAVE!!

I'LL TRY GOING IN AT *MACH 10!!*

ZOOOOOOM

I'LL BREAK THE SOUND BARRIER AND CREATE SHOCK WAVES AROUND YOU, BLUE KNIGHT!

SCREEEEE

ARGH!!

SCREEEEE

MY *HELMET!!!*

CRACK

HOW ABOUT IT, BLUE KNIGHT?

EVEN STEEL CAN'T WITH STAND THIS!

I'VE ALREADY CRACKED YOUR HELMET... NEXT I'LL EXPOSE YOUR *REAL FACE!*

AAACK!

I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU GET AWAY!!

VOOOSH

WHINNNY

CLOMPITY CLOP CLOMPITY CLOP

CLOP CLOP CLOP

ROAR ROAR

ROAR ROAR ROAR

ROAR ROAR

THIS IS WEIRD...

HE SUDDENLY *VANISHED!*

ROAR

THERE'S ONLY ONE CASE OF A NORMAL ROBOT DELIBERATELY HURTING A HUMAN...

YOU REMEMBER IT, MUSTACHIO?

IT WAS THE ROBOT *ATLAS*... HE HAD A SPECIAL DEVICE IN HIM, CALLED AN *OMEGA FACTOR*, AND HE WAS UP TO NO GOOD...

YOU THINK THE BLUE KNIGHT AND TONTO MIGHT HAVE THE SAME OMEGA WHAT-CHAMACALLIT?

NO WAY TO TELL UNLESS WE INVESTIGATE...

THIS IS WHERE TONTO LIVES...

BONK

UM, ARE YOU TONTO'S MOTHER?

NO, I'M HIS OLDER SISTER ...

WHOOPS! KINDA HARD TO TELL THE AGE OF ROBOTS...

YOU'RE HIS TEACHER, AREN'T YOU?

HEH HEH...

TONTO'S NOT HERE RIGHT NOW, BUT CAN I HELP YOU?

UM, ER, UM, IT'S THAT, WELL, TONTO HIT A KID AT SCHOOL, SEE...

AN' LEMME INTRODUCE YOU TO MY FRIEND FROM THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE... PROFESSOR *KANDA*, I MEAN UENO, NO, I MEAN *YURAKUCHO!*

=PSST=, IT'S *OCHA-NOMI-ZU!*

WE'D LIKE TO FIND OUT WHY TONTO WOULD HIT A HUMAN, MISS....

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MUSTA-CHIO?

I NEED TO GO THE BATH-ROOM...

THEY DON'T HAVE BATH-ROOMS HERE, SILLY... THIS IS A *ROBOT* HOUSEHOLD!

REALLY? *UH OH...*

DON'T WORRY, SIR... COME THIS WAY...

HEH HEH... THANKS, LADY...

THUD

KATHUD

OW!! THAT HURT!

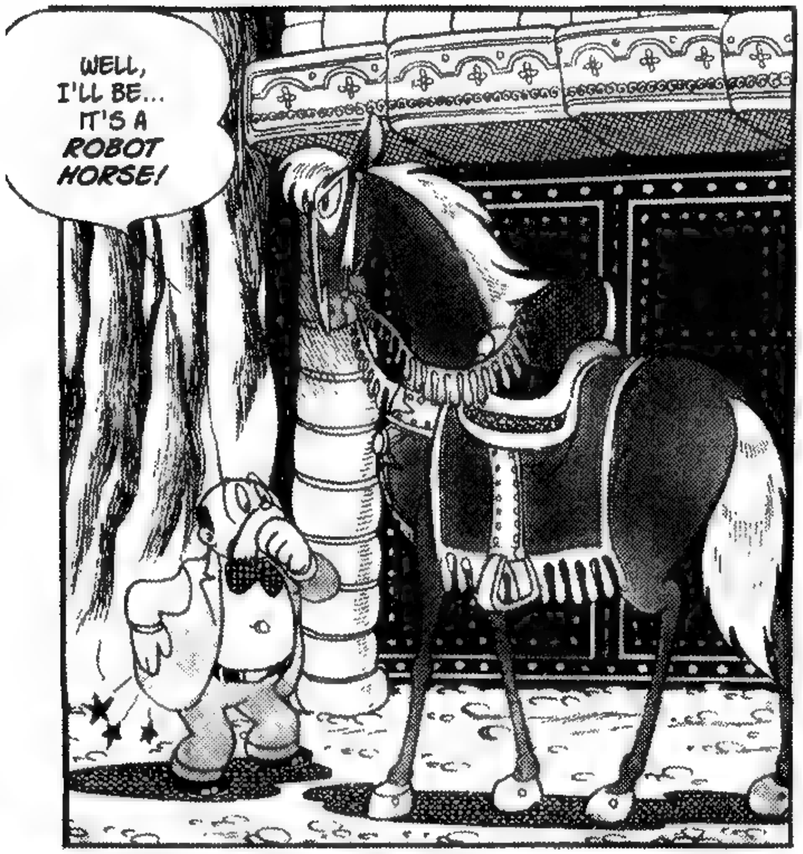
HATE TO SAY IT, BUT WHEN I GOTTA GO, I GOTTA GO...

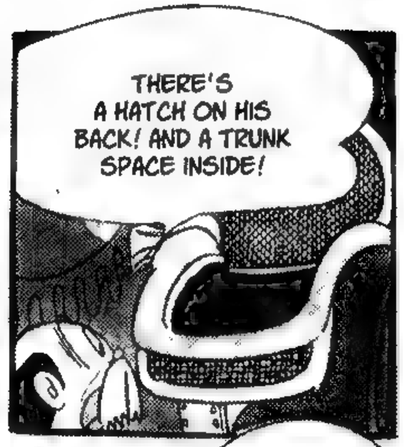
I MUST'VE OPENED THE *WRONG DOOR!*

WHOMP

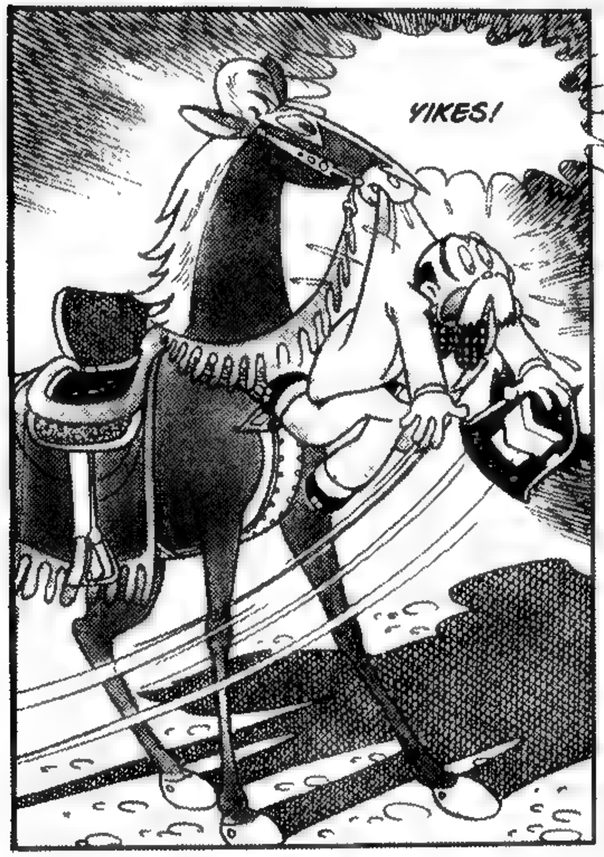
THUD

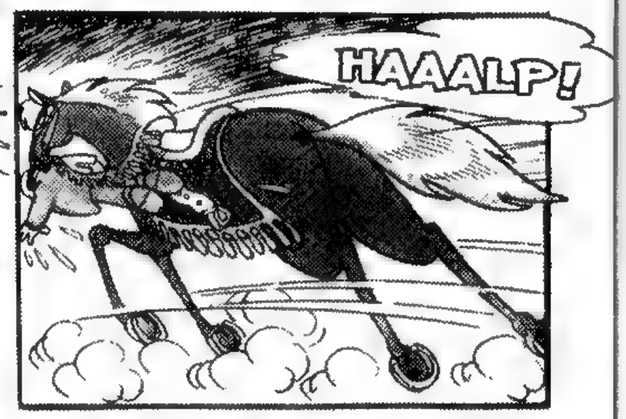
WHAT THE --?!

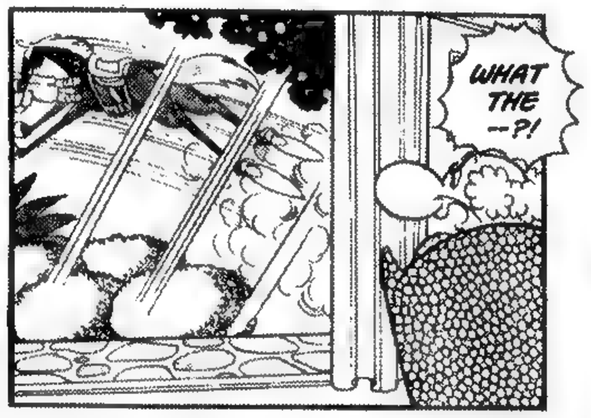

WELL, I'LL BE... IT'S A ROBOT HORSE!


THERE'S A HATCH ON HIS BACK! AND A TRUNK SPACE INSIDE!

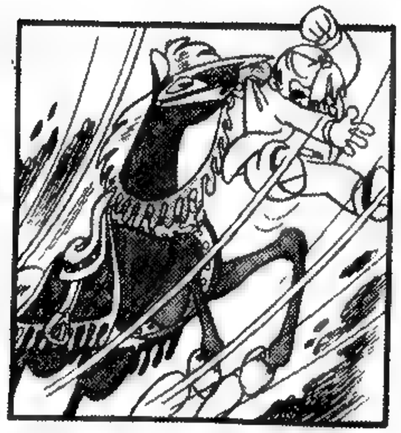
THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD IN HERE, TOO...


YIKES!

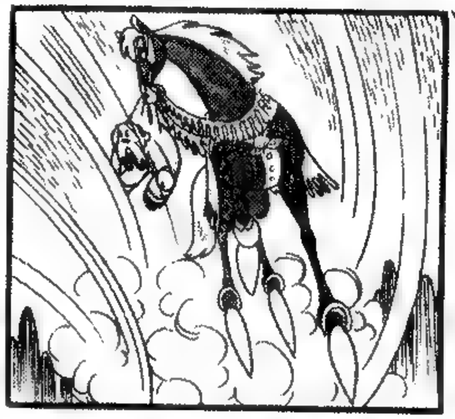

HAAALP!

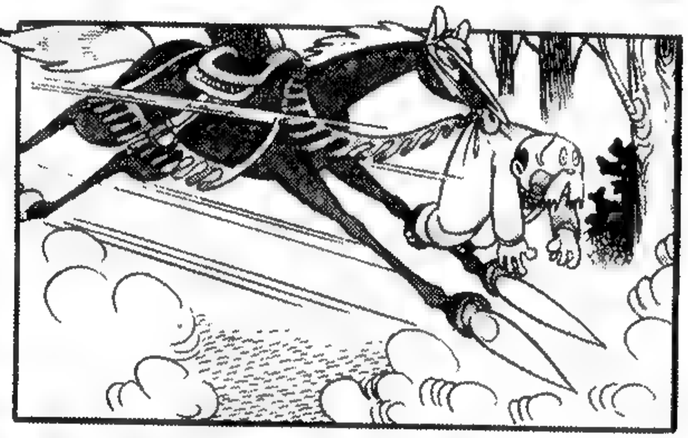

WHAT THE --?!

THAT'S MUSTA-CHIO!!



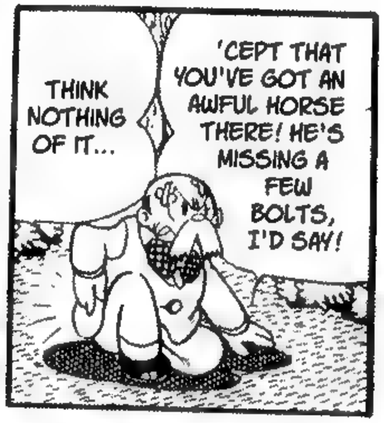
IRON! COME BACK!!



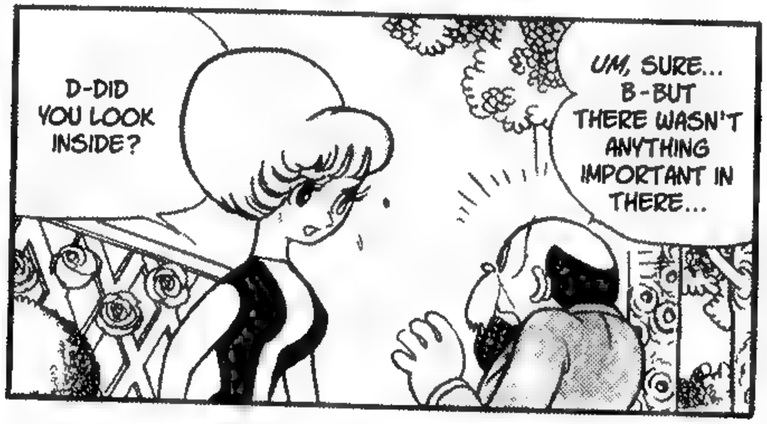


WOW... YOU REALLY TOOK A BEATING...

I'M SOOO SORRY, SIR....


THINK NOTHING OF IT...
'CEPT THAT YOU'VE GOT AN AWFUL HORSE THERE! HE'S MISSING A FEW BOLTS, I'D SAY!

AND THE HATCH ON HIS BACK WAS WIDE OPEN!


D-DID YOU LOOK INSIDE?
UM, SURE... B-BUT THERE WASN'T ANYTHING IMPORTANT IN THERE...

WOW... AM I EVER *SORE* ...

YOU'D BETTER GO HOME AND REST, MUSTACHIO... AND WE SHOULDN'T BOTHER THE YOUNG LADY ANY MORE...

.....
.....

MEANWHILE...

...ON A SEA CLIFF IN SOUTHERN FRANCE...

LISTEN, *WHITE KNIGHT*... YOU'RE THE PRIDE OF FRANCE'S MINISTRY OF SCIENCE! A 500,000 HORSEPOWER SUPER-ROBOT, MADE TO PROTECT HUMANS, TAKE ON THE BLUE KNIGHT, AND *WIN!* YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO FAIL, *UNDERSTAND?*

WE SET A MESSAGE TO THE BLUE KNIGHT VIA TV.... WE ASKED HIM--THE *ENEMY* OF MANKIND--TO ENGAGE IN A MATCH WITH THE *WHITE KNIGHT*, THE FRIEND OF MAN, TO SEE WHO'S THE *STRONGEST!*

HMPH!... YOU THINK HE'LL COME TO THE DESIGNATED SPOT?

OH, HE'LL COME ALL RIGHT...

THE WHITE KNIGHT'S BODY ACTUALLY HAS LOTS OF *MEASURING DEVICES*...

THEY COLLECT ALL SORTS OF DATA ON BLUE KNIGHT AND SEND IT TO THIS *RECEIVER*, HERE....

THIS TIME WE'LL DEFINITELY LEARN THE BLUE KNIGHT'S SECRETS! *HA HA HA!*

NO SIGN OF THE BLUE KNIGHT YET, EH?

NOPE...

HOLY COW!

KA-BOOM

BAM

O, HUMANS! FORGET THESE *SILLY TRICKS!* MACHINES LIKE THIS ONLY MAKE ME WANT TO DESTROY THEM!

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW MY SECRETS THIS WAY! NOW TELL ME, WHERE'S THE *WHITE KNIGHT?!*

AI-YI-YI!

STOP, BLUE KNIGHT!

ARE YOU A SLAVE TO MEN, TOO?

AH, I AM NO SLAVE, BUT YOU ARE AN *UN-GRATEFUL WRETCH!*

YOU WERE *MADE* BY HUMANS! HOW *DARE* YOU BETRAY THEM?

HEH HEH... AND YOU WILL GET NO ANSWER TO THAT! IT'S TIME TO JOUST, LIKE A TRUE WARRIOR, WHITE KNIGHT!

THEN, *HERE I COME!*

CRASH

KER THUD

HOW 'BOUT IT? WITHOUT YOUR HEAD, YOU'RE DOOMED!

HA! I'LL JUST BORROW ANOTHER ONE!

SMASH

CRACK

KAPOW!

SO YOUR BODY FELL APART... I'LL BET YOU CAN'T SWITCH *THAT* FOR A NEW ONE!

HMPH!... MAYBE YOU COULD MAKE DO WITH YOUR HORSE'S BODY...

NOW, THAT'S A FINE IDEA... A HORSE BODY DESERVES A HORSE HEAD!

LOOKS LIKE I WON, DOESN'T IT?

SHOONK

SO, HUMANS... LET'S HEAR YOU SING THE FRENCH NATIONAL ANTHEM TO MOURN YOUR SLAIN ROBO-WARRIOR!

FARE-WELL!

UH OH...

ARGH! ...!!

THE HELMET I CRACKED DURING MY DUEL WITH ASTRO BOY....

...HA START TO COL APAR

DID YOU SEE THAT *FACE?!!*

KATHUD

DID YOU SEE WHO IT WAS!!?

JEEPERS CREEPERS! I'LL BE!!

I NEVER WOULD'VE BELIEVED IT!

YOW!

ZOOOM

WHAT A FRIGHTFUL FELLOW HE IS!

UH OH... HERE COMES SOMETHING ELSE!

VROOOM

WONDER WHAT KIND OF KNIGHT IT'LL BE THIS TIME?

WHO... WHO ARE YOU?!

DID THE BLUE KNIGHT COME HERE?!

I'M *ASTRO...* A ROBOT FROM *JAPAN!* I CAME 'CAUSE I SAW WHAT HAPPENED ON TELEVISION! I'M LOOKING FOR THE *BLUE KNIGHT!*

HE FLED THAT-A-WAY... TOWARDS THE SEA... JUST A MINUTE AGO!

NOW'S MY CHANCE... I'VE GOTTA FIND HIM!

KABOOSH.

I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY THIS TIME!

THERE HE IS!

WHAT THE--?! THAT FACE... IT LOOKS LIKE *TONTO!!*

CAN THE BLUE KNIGHT REALLY BE *TONTO?* I DON'T GET IT!! I THOUGHT TONTO WAS GOING TO *SCHOOL* EVERY DAY!

BLUE KNIGHT!

WHAT THE --P!?

IT'S ME, ASTRO!

LISTEN TONTO... IT IS YOU, ISN'T IT!? WHY'RE YOU DRESSED IN THAT COSTUME AND ACTING SO VIOLENTLY!?

OR IF YOU'RE THE BLUE KNIGHT, WHAT'VE YOU BEEN DOING GOING TO MY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AS A KID?

HOW *DARE* YOU CALL ME TONTO!

MY REAL NAME IS *NOT* TONTO!

DON'T TRY TO FOOL ME... I *SAW* WHO YOU REALLY ARE!

AND I'M GONNA TAKE YOU BACK TO PROFESSOR OCHANO-MIZU'S LAB WITH ME!

I AM *NOT* TONTO! I AM *BLUE BON!* AND I AM NOT GOING WITH YOU!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS MATCH WITH YOU, ASTRO! YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME ALIVE!

HERE, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS *SWORD!*

SHOONK SHOOONK

TAKE IT! IF I LOSE, DO WITH ME AS YOU PLEASE! BUT IF I WIN, YOU HAVE TO JOIN ME!! WHAT DO YOU SAY?!

YOU'RE *ON!*

BZZZZZ

AIEEE!

M-MY BODY'S...

YOU *COWARD!* WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR!

THAT'S A *TRICK SWORD,* ISN'T IT?!!

IT PARALYZED ME THE MOMENT I TOUCHED IT!

DON'T BE *RIDICU-LOUS,* ASTRO BOY!

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR TRICK SWORD BACK, BLUE KNIGHT!

TRICK?!

THIS IS A SPECIAL SWORD, MADE FOR ME BY DR. LOS, ASTRO BOY!

AND DR. LOS ALSO MADE *ME!*

SEE?! WHEN I HOLD IT, *NOTHING HAPPENS!*

WOW, THAT'S WEIRD... WHEN I TOUCHED IT, I GOT A *HUGE SHOCK!*

IF IT'S A PROBLEM, TRY *THIS* ONE!

WELL? HOW 'BOUT IT?! DOES IT DO THE SAME THING?

NO, THIS TIME IT'S *FINE*...

IT'S JUST AN ORDINARY OLD SWORD... *EN GARDE*, ASTRO!

REMEMBER NOW, IF I WIN, YOU HAVE TO JOIN ME! IF I LOSE, YOU CAN DO WITH ME AS YOU PLEASE!

BUT I'M *NOT* GOING TO LOSE...

HERE I COME!!

CLANG

CLANG

THWACK

TAKE *THIS!*

NOT SO EASY!

CLANK

CLANG

CLANG

LET'S *STOP*, TONTO! WE'VE GONE FAR ENOUGH!

I TOLD YOU, I AM *NOT* TONTO!

BUT I SAW YOUR FACE, TONTO!!

ENOUGH !!

VOMP

OOMPH!

CHANG

POK

HANG

POK

CHANG

FWP

SHWACK

OVER HERE, BIG BOY!

OUCH!

UH OH...

HEH HEH

THE ABOVE PICTURE'S NONSENSE, OF COURSE...

... Y'KNOW ...

REALLY NO NEED FOR HIS FACE THERE...

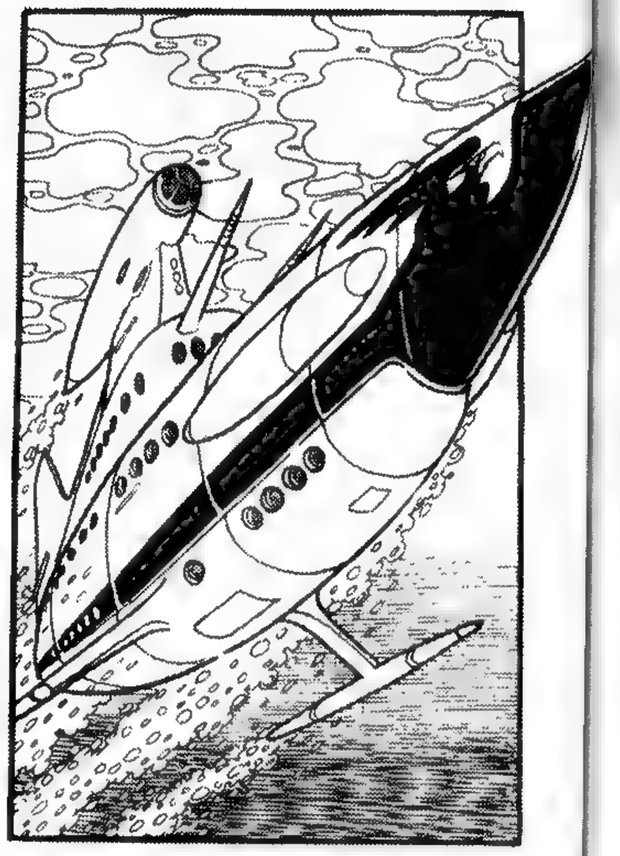
NICE TA MEET YA!

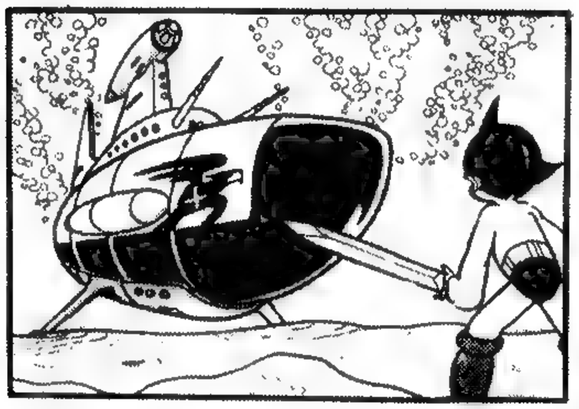
UH OH... A HUMAN'S COMING! IN A SUB-MARINE!

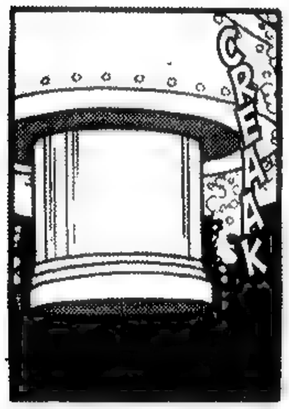
I CAN'T LET ANYONE SEE ME HERE! WE'LL HAVE TO CALL THIS A TIE, ASTRO BOY!

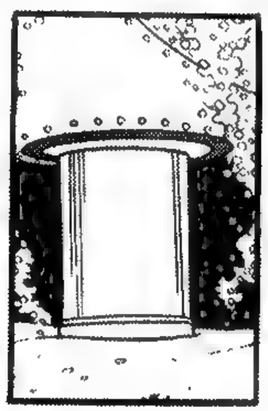
I'LL DEAL WITH YOU LATER!

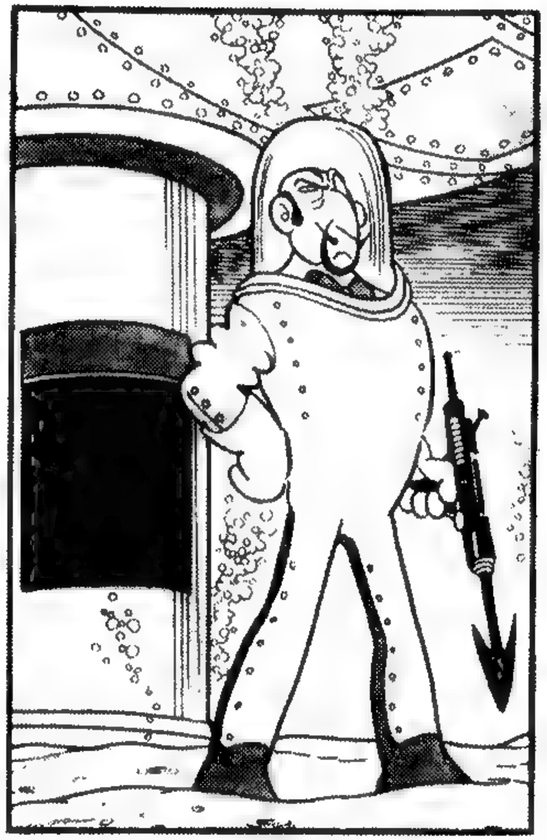
STOP!!



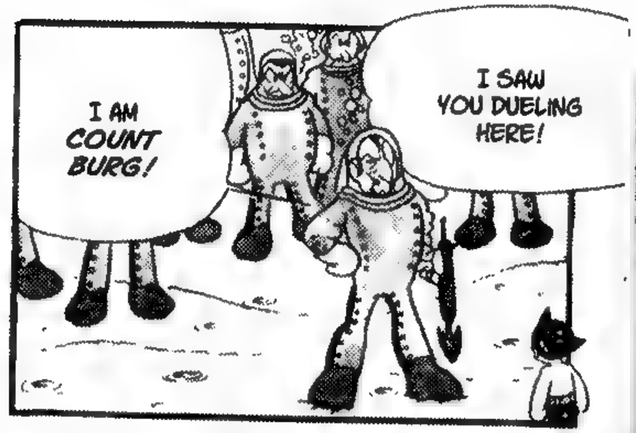



CREAAK





ASTRO BOY, I PRESUME... I KNOW YOUR FACE...
B-BUT WHO'RE YOU?!

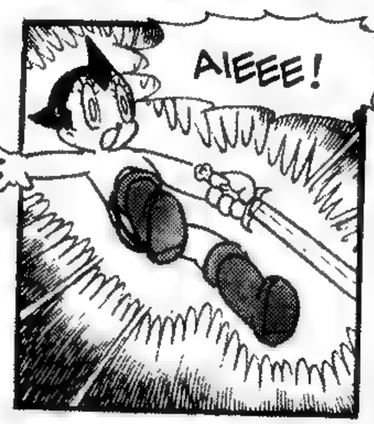

I AM COUNT BURG!
I SAW YOU DUELING HERE!

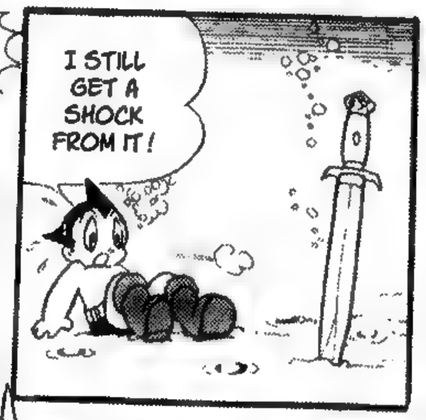
YEAH, I WAS WITH THE BLUE KNIGHT!

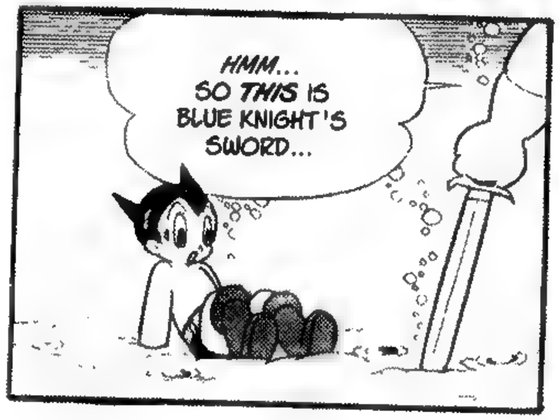
BLUE KNIGHT?! REALLY?
WHAT A SHAME!

I COME FROM A LONG FAMILY OF FAMOUS KNIGHTS... AND I WANTED TO DUEL WITH HIM!

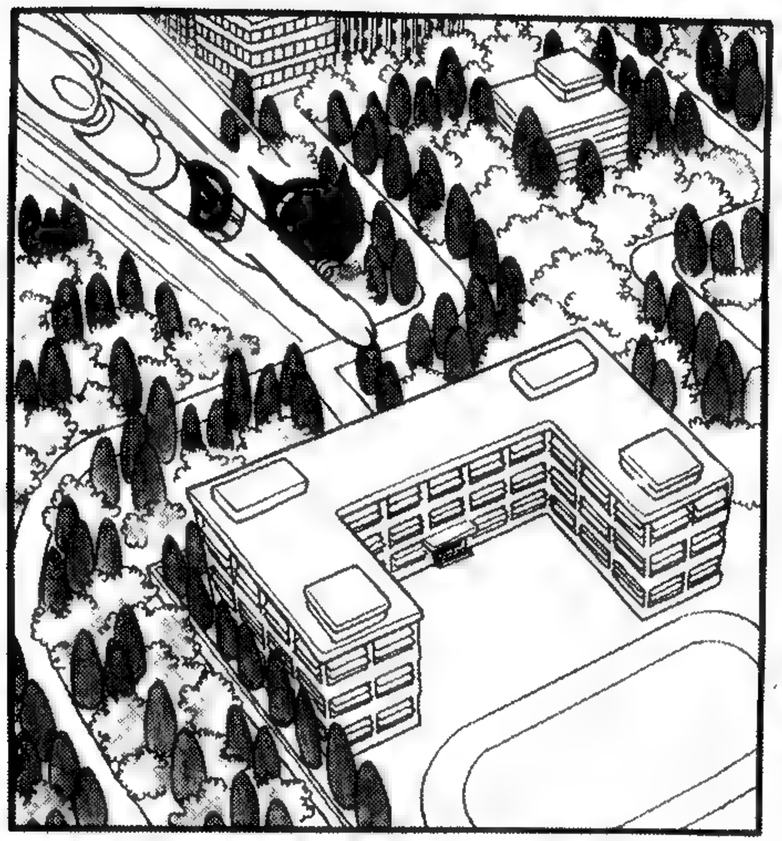
ACTUALLY, HE LEFT HIS SWORD HERE...

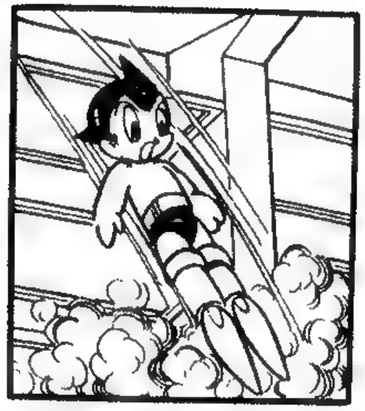

AIEEE!


I STILL GET A SHOCK FROM IT!

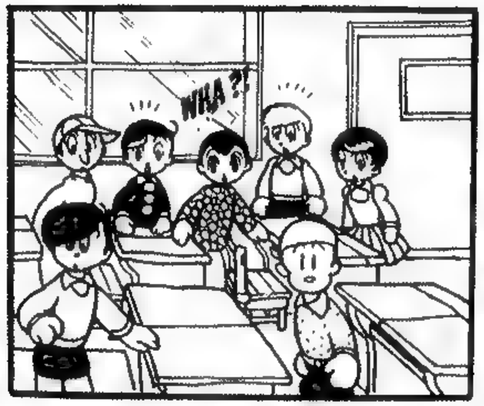

HMM... SO THIS IS BLUE KNIGHT'S SWORD...

I'M GOING TO INVESTIGATE THIS... MIGHT BE VALUABLE!

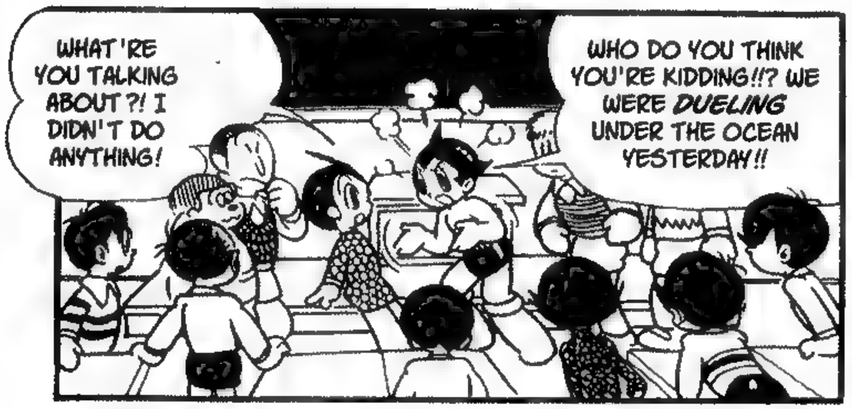




TONTO!!


WHA?!

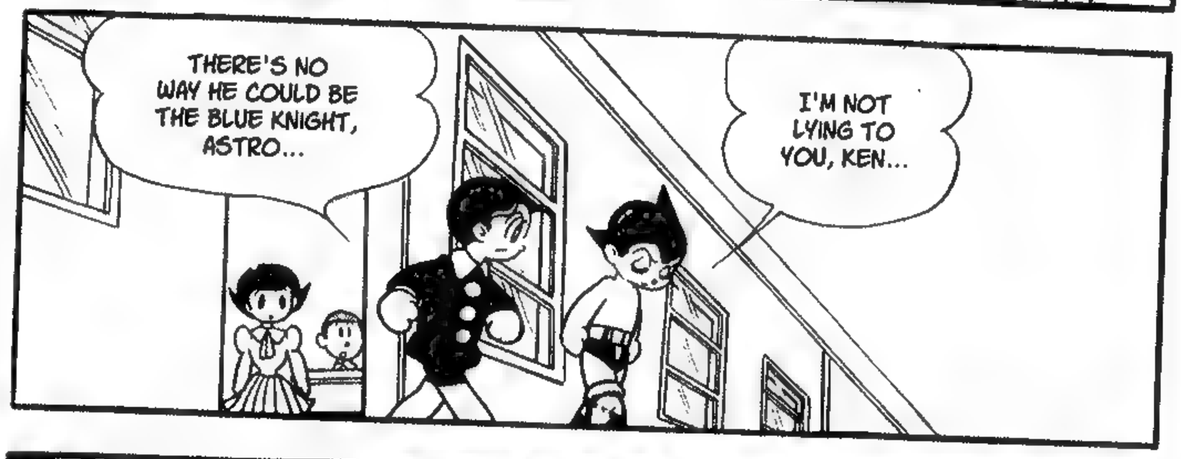
TONTO! YOU'RE THE BLUE KNIGHT, AREN'T YOU!? WHAT'S GOING ON?


WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE KIDDING!!? WE WERE DUELING UNDER THE OCEAN YESTERDAY!!

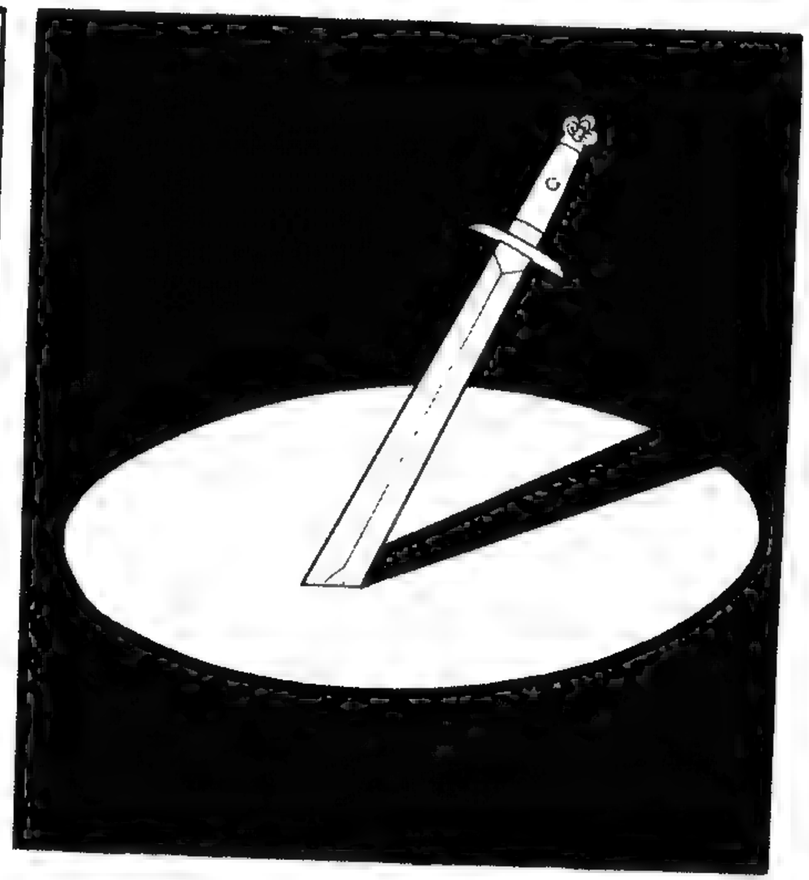
UNDER THE OCEAN? B-BUT I DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE!

ASTRO... YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN...

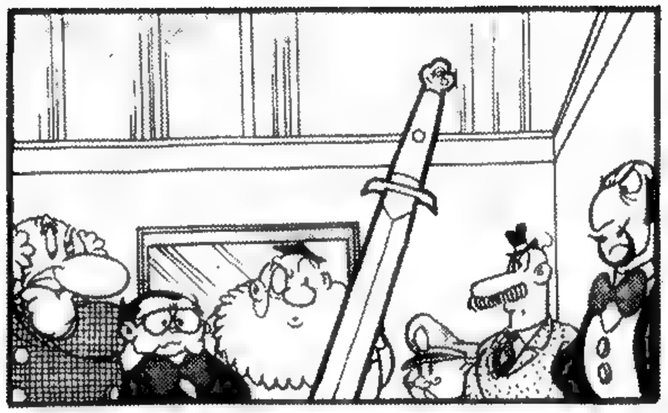
NO, I'M NOT! I REALLY DID SEE TONTO UNDER THE SEA!
I'M NOT KIDDING YOU!
BUT HE'S RIGHT HERE, ASTRO!

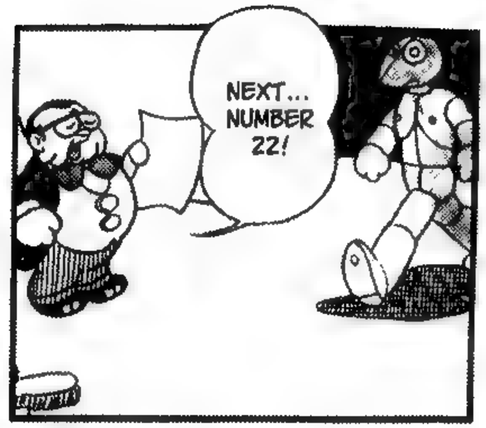

THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD BE THE BLUE KNIGHT, ASTRO...
I'M NOT LYING TO YOU, KEN...

I KNOW HE'S THE BLUE KNIGHT!



... BUT FOR SOME REASON, HE'S HIDING IT...

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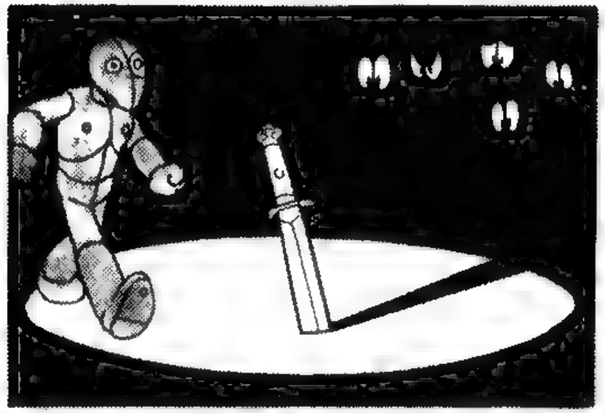
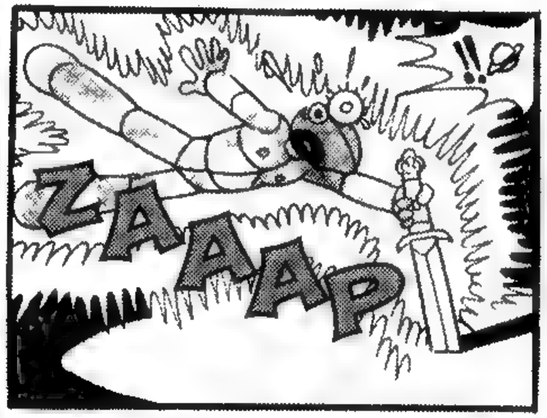
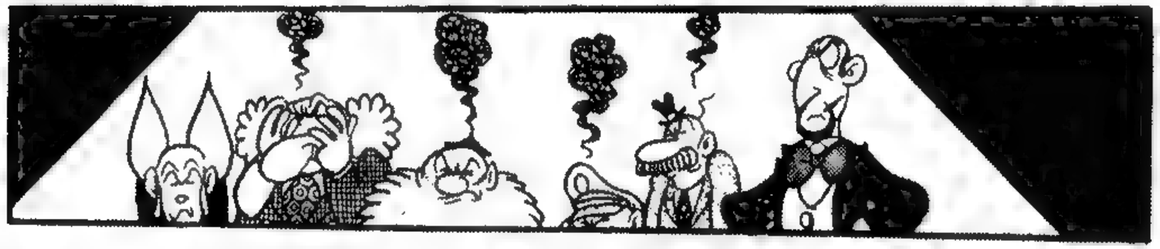
22!




ZAAAAP
!!



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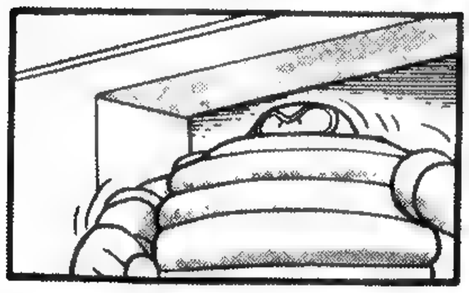
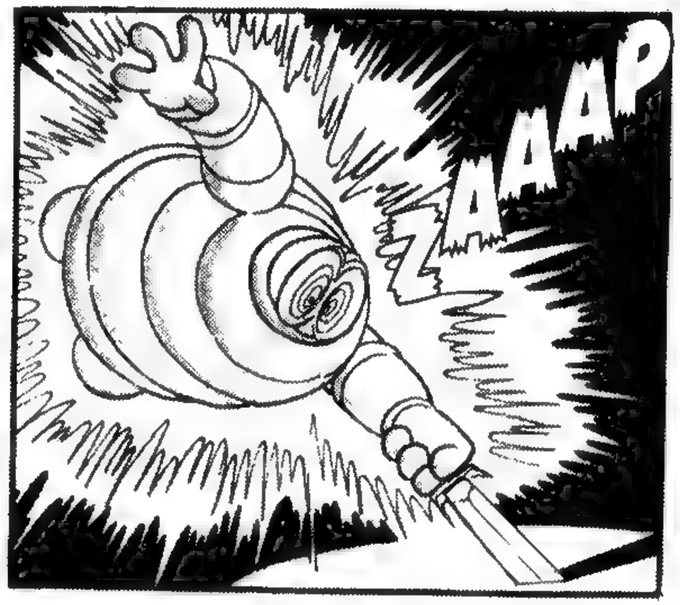
NUMBER
23!

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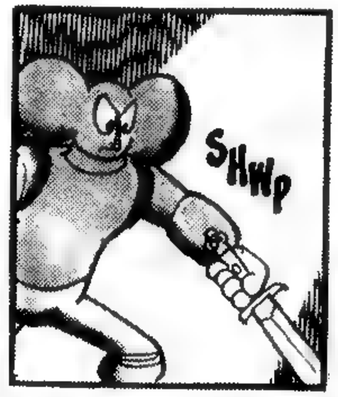
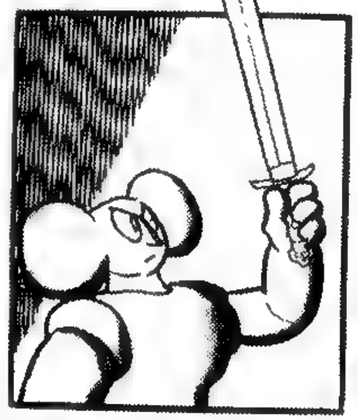
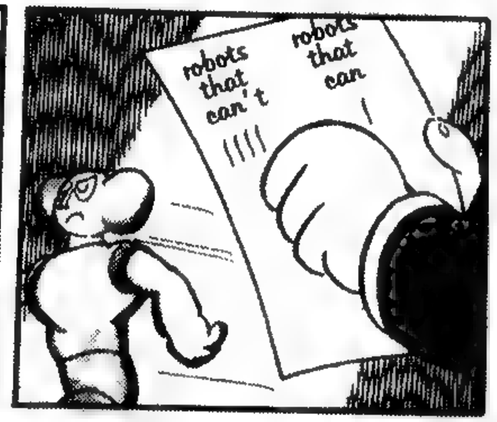
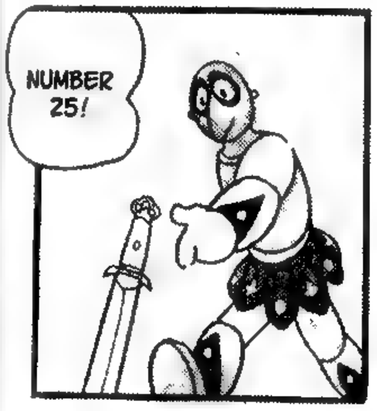

SHWP



GASP
WOW


robots that can't
robots that can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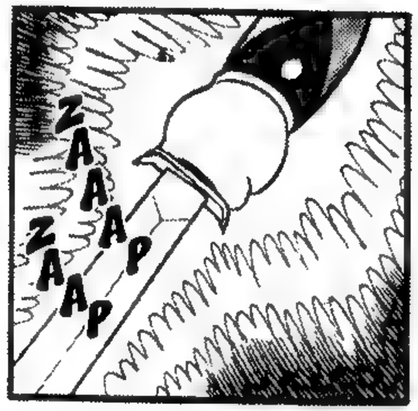
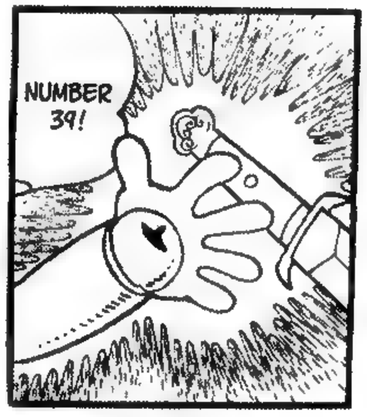

ZAAAAP

NUMBER
28!
ZAP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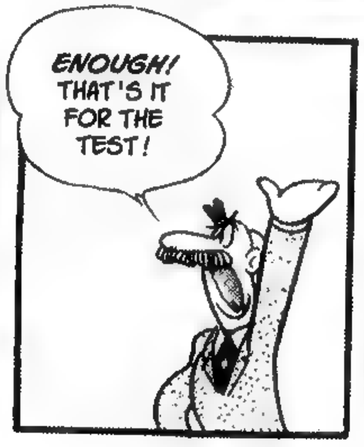

ENOUGH!
THAT'S IT
FOR THE
TEST!

OKAY, COUNT BURG... WE'VE HAD FORTY ROBOTS HOLD THE SWORD, AND THIRTY-EIGHT WERE PARALYZED BY IT!

SOME ROBOTS *CAN* HOLD THIS SWORD, AND SOME *CAN'T*...

GENTLEMEN, THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FACT!

IT MEANS THE SWORD IS DESIGNED SO ONLY CERTAIN MODELS OF ROBOTS CAN USE IT!

B... BUT WHAT KIND OF MODELS?

THOSE LIKE THE *BLUE KNIGHT!*

DANGEROUS ROBOTS! THE KIND THAT DON'T RESPECT HUMANS AND STRIKE THEM WITH NO COMPUNCTION!

B..BUT...

WE'RE GOT A REAL PROBLEM, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU! BASICALLY, YOU ROBOTOLOGISTS HAVE UNWITTINGLY MADE A GRAVE ERROR!

B-BUT WE DON'T MAKE ROBOTS LIKE THAT AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE!

THAT'S WHY I SAID, "UNWITTINGLY"!

I'M CERTAIN THERE ARE MANY ROBOTS LIKE THE BLUE KNIGHT IN THE WORLD!

WITH TONS OF 'EM RUNNING AROUND, WE COULD HAVE A *DISASTER!*

EX-ACTLY!

THEY'RE A TERRIFYING ENEMY OF MANKIND!

SHOOONK

THAT'S WHY WE'VE GOT TO FIND AND COMPLETELY *DESTROY* ALL SUCH ROBOTS!

CLAP CLAP CLAP

B-BUT THAT'S *RIDICULOUS!*

LISTEN, INSPECTOR TAWASHI... IF WE GO ALONG WITH THIS, YOU'LL WIND UP SENDING LOTS OF INNOCENT ROBOTS TO THE *SCRAP YARD!!*

BUT IT'S TO *PROTECT THE PUBLIC,* PROFESSOR!

IT'S ONLY *NORMAL* TO ARREST ROBOTS WHO'VE HARMED PEOPLE!

WHAT'LL WE DO IF THERE ARE LOTS OF ROBOTS LIKE BLUE KNIGHT RUNNING AROUND, *EH?!*

ER... UH... ≠ARGHE...

NEVER-NEVER-NEVER-NEVER-NEVER-*NEVER!*

AT THE VERY LEAST, PROFESSOR, WE'VE GOTTA INSPECT ALL THE ROBOTS THROUGHOUT JAPAN...

DO AS YOU PLEASE, THEN...

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THE "SWORD OF THE BLUE KNIGHT" WAS CAREFULLY ANALYZED. EXACT COPIES WERE MANUFACTURED AND DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT JAPAN...

WHEEEE WHEEEE WHEEEE WHEEEE

ALL RIGHT, MEN! WE'RE NOT GONNA ALLOW ANY ROBOTS LIKE BLUE KNIGHT TO SURVIVE IN JAPAN! ARREST 'EM *ALL!*

HOORAH!

WHEEE WHEEE ARF!

ARF ARF ARF

ARF

SCREECH

HERE... HOLD THIS...

?

?

NO RESPONSE! *ARREST* HIM!!

WHAT THE --?!

B-BUT I HAVEN'T *DONE* ANYTHING!

TAKE HIM TO THE SCRAP YARD!

WHEEE

WHEEE

TRAMP TRAMP TRAMP

ZAAP

YOU'RE OKAY, PAL...

?
?
?
TRAMP TRAMP TRAMP

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

!

OFF TO THE SCRAP YARD YOU GO! GET IN!

B-BUT HOW COME WE'RE GONNA BE SCRAPPED?

PLEASE... AT LEAST SPARE MY LITTLE *BROTHER*...

NEVER!

YOU'VE HEARD OF THE BLUE KNIGHT, RIGHT?! WELL, YOU'RE DESIGNED THE SAME WAY HE IS! MEANS YOU'RE *DANGEROUS!*

S-STOP !!!

LISTEN TO ME! THIS IS *RIDICULOUS!!* THOSE ROBOTS'RE *INNOCENT!*

VROOOM

I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT'S HAPPENING...

SO IN OTHER WORDS, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO STOP THIS NOW... ALL ROBOTS THROUGHOUT JAPAN NEED TO BE CAREFUL!

IF THE PROFESSOR'S SAYS HE CAN'T STOP THIS.... THEN WE'VE *REALLY* GOT A PROBLEM!

I DON'T GET WHY ROBOTS LIKE BLUE KNIGHT HAVE TO BE DESTROYED? HOW COME?!!

DON'T PANIC = THEY BRING ONE OF THOSE WORDS HERE...

YEAH... PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S ON OUR SIDE, SO WE'LL BE OKAY, RIGHT?

I'M WORRIED, MOMMY... WHAT'LL I DO IF I'M REALLY A BLUE-KNIGHT-TYPE ROBOT?

DON'T WORRY, URAN... YOU CAN'T BE...

MVREVCH

THEY'RE HERE, MOM!

FAMILY OF FIVE, RIGHT?

I WANT EACH OF YOU TO HOLD THIS SWORD!

B-BUT...

OKAY... NEXT!

IT'S YOUR TURN, URAN...

I JUST HOLD IT, RIGHT?

ɜOWW!ɛ

OKAY, NEXT...

IT'S REALLY SCARY, MOMMY, WATCH OUT!

WHA?!

HA! SO YOU'RE A BLUE-KNIGHT-TYPE OF ROBOT, EH?

HERE, YOU'RE THE LAST ONE...

WHA?! DAD, TOO?!

BOTH OF YOU ARE COMING WITH US!!

HEY! YOU CAN'T TAKE MY MOMMY N' DADDY!

DON'T GO, MOM 'N DAD! I'LL GET PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU TO HELP US!

WHAT'LL I DO IF THEY SCRAP YOU, MOMMY?

DON'T WORRY, LITTLE GIRL... YOU CAN JUST HAVE ANOTHER, *SAFER* ROBOT MADE FOR YOU WITH THE SAME FACE!

NO, MOMMY, NO! DON'T GO!! *PLEEASE!!*

I GUESS THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY BODY, DEAR... I WAS JUST UNLUCKY TO GET THIS MODEL... BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED...

B-BUT *HUMANS* MADE YOU! YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG, MOM! IT'S *NOT FAIR!*

GOODBYE, ASTRO... URAN... COBALT... TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES!

I CAN'T STAND THIS ANYMORE!

SMASH

KABASH

COME BACK HERE! ROBOT'S AREN'T S'POSED TO DISOBEY HUMANS!!

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

THESE ARE MY *PARENTS!* I'LL *NEVER* LET YOU HAVE THEM!

ASTRO!!

WHY'D YOU HELP US?!! YOU'VE BROUGHT *SHAME* ON ME, SON!!

B-BUT I CAN'T STAND THE IDEA OF YOU BEING SMASHED...

LISTEN TO ME ASTRO! HUMANS ARE REALLY *NERVOUS* ABOUT ROBOTS RIGHT NOW!

AND BECAUSE OF YOU, THEY'RE GETTING EVEN *MORE*-- }AAAAAACK!{

HE'S RIGHT, ASTRO... THEY'LL START THINKING YOU'RE A BAD ROBOT, TOO... I'M SORRY, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO LET US GO...

B-BUT *MOM*...

WE'RE SORRY, OFFICER... ASTRO'S JUST A CHILD, HE DIDN'T MEAN IT...

PLEASE FORGIVE US...

}ARGH{...

KROOOM

I KNOW... I'VE GOTTA GET PROFESSOR *OCHANOMIZU* TO HELP ME!

I'M SURE *HE* CAN DO SOMETHING...

WHA?! WHAT'S THAT?!

LOOK AT ALL THOSE PEOPLE! I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON?

THEY'RE GONG TO *SMASH* US...

WOW... SO THIS IS A *ROBOT CONCENTRATION CAMP!* HEY, THERE'S *MOM!*

SIGN YOUR NAME RIGHT HERE!

IN THE REGISTRY FOR BLUE-KNIGHT-TYPE ROBOTS?

GOSH... I JUST WANTED TO LIVE ANOTHER FIVE YEARS...

SAY, AREN'T YOU *ASTRO BOY'S DAD?*

YES, I AM...

SO YOU'RE HIS MOTHER?

YES...

WELL, WELL... I'M CERTAINLY SORRY ABOUT THIS...

I USED TO BE PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S ASSISTANT AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE... IF THERE'S ANY WAY I CAN HELP YOU, I WILL...

ROBOTS SENT HERE ARE NORMALLY INSPECTED FIRST...

... AND THEN A DECISION IS MADE WHETHER OR NOT TO *DES-TROY* THEM...

I'LL TRY TO ARRANGE IT SO YOU CAN PASS THE INSPEC-TION AND BE *SAVED* ...

GOSH, THANKS ...

THIS WAY ...

EXCUSE ME, BUT COULD YOU INSPECT THESE TWO?

I'D LIKE TO MAKE SURE THEY AREN'T SENT TO THE SCRAP YARD...

♪HMPH♪... I SEE...

STARE STARE

♪PHTTT♪... STUPID ROBOTS!

YOU ROBOTS'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE, EVEN *THINKING* YOU CAN BE SAVED!!

FRANKLY, I *HATE* ROBOTS! YOU THINK YOU CAN COME HERE, BEG FOR YOUR LIFE, AND HAVE ME SAVE YOU? WELL, YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING!

GET ON THE INSPEC-TION TABLE!

FAIL THE NSPECTION, AND IT'S STRAIGHT TO THE *SCRAP YARD!*

HURRY UP!!

I'LL GO FIRST, DEAR...

NO... *I'LL* GO FIRST... YOU WATCH OVER ME...

STOP DILLY-DALLYING! GET ON THE TABLE NOW, OR I'LL SEND YOU TO THE SCRAP YARD, *WITHOUT* AN INSPECTION!!

WHAP

FWAP

LISTEN, WE'RE NOT SOME LIFELESS DOLLS, YOU KNOW...

WHAT?! NOT LIFELESS DOLLS, EH?

NO... AND WE'RE ENTITLED TO THE SAME TREATMENT AS HUMANS...

:PSST: WHAT'S *ENTITLED* MEAN?

.WE'VE THE SAME RIGHTS...

SHE'S RIGHT! WE'VE GOT TITLES! BOOK TITLES, MAGAZINE TITLES, AND ENTITLES!

YOU *WHAT?!*

WHY YOU *IMPUDENT*...

WHAP

YOU'RE GOING TO BE *SCRAP-PED!!*

WHAP

OF ALL THE NERVE!

MOM!!

SMASH

ASTRO!!

WHY... YOU...

SLAM

KER BASH!

MOM! DAD! LET'S RUN FOR IT!

THESE HUMANS'RE *CRAZY!* THERE'S NO NEED TO LISTEN TO THEM!

BUT ASTRO... WHAT'LL WE *DO?*

WE'LL GO TO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE! PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'LL HELP US!

WHA?!

I'M SORRY, BUT THE PROFESSOR'S BEEN GONE FOR THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS...

HE'S NOT AROUND?! GOSH, WHAT'LL WE *DO?!*

WHEEEE

WHEEEE

WHEEEE

WHEEEE

WHEEEE

WHEEEE

TWEET TWEET!

SO THERE YOU ARE, ASTRO!!

YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO HELP THE BLUE-KNIGHT-TYPE OF ROBOTS, HAVEN'T YOU?! WELL, PUT YOUR HANDS UP! WE'RE TAKING YOU *IN!!*

ON ORDERS FROM HIS LORDSHIP!!

HEY! THIS GUY BELONGS IN A *SAMURAI* MOVIE!

BRING 'EM IN, MEN!

YESSIR!

INSPECTOR TAWASHI NEVER UNDERSTANDS...!

THEY'LL FOLLOW US ALMOST ANYWHERE... SO LET'S HEAD FOR THE MOUNTAINS...

I WANT YOU BOTH TO HIDE HERE FOR AWHILE...

NEXT, I'LL BRING URAN 'N COBALT HERE...

I'LL BRING AN ENERGY TUBE, TOO...

WELL, I GUESS I'M AN *OUTLAW* NOW, TOO...

UH OH.. OUR HOUSE'S ON FIRE!

SOME-BODY'S SMASHED EVERY-THING!

COBALT! URAN! ANY-ONE HOME?!

CO-BALT!

HEH HEH ...

WHA?!

COBALT! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

WELL, THE POLICE ROBOTS CAME HERE...

THEY SAID THEY WERE LOOKING FOR MOM 'N DAD... THEY BARGED IN HERE 'N MADE A MESS OUT OF THE PLACE!

URAN! WHAT'RE YOU DOING THERE?!

I GOT ANGRY AND TOLD THEM TO STOP, AN' THEN THEY WENT *CRAZY!*

THEY SMASHED EVERYTHING AN' THEN RAN AWAY!

HOW COME THE HUMANS ARE TREATING US LIKE THIS, ASTRO?

I DON'T KNOW... I REALLY DON'T KNOW...

... WE'RE JUST RO-BOTS, AFTER ALL...

AND WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG...

I NEED BOTH OF YOU TO COME WITH ME!

MOM 'N DAD'RE WAITING FOR US!!

YAY!

MOM! DAD!!

URAN!

YOU POOR DEAR... LOOK HOW DIRTY YOU GOT...

OH, MOM ...

ARE WE GOING TO LIVE IN THESE MOUNTAINS FOREVER, MOM?

AS LONG AS THEY'RE AFTER US, URAN...

I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE!

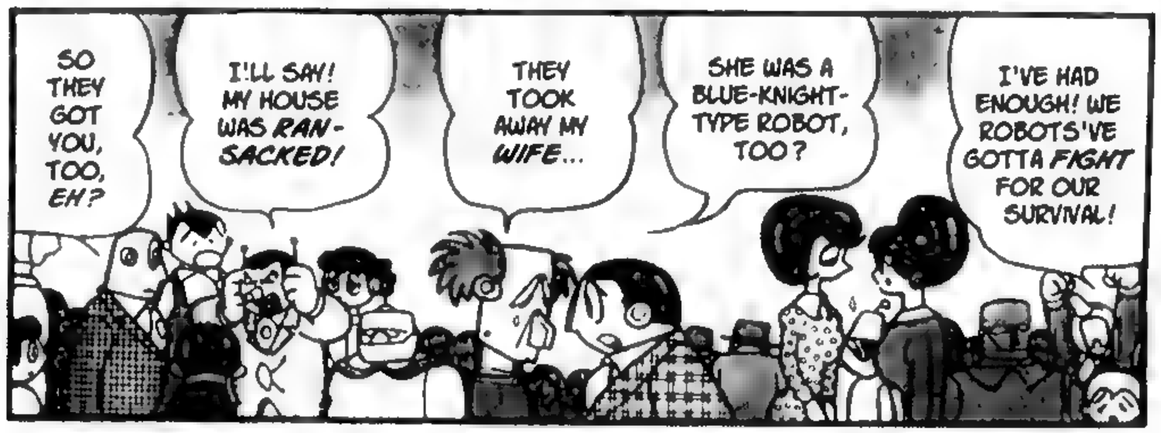
THOSE BLASTED *HUMANS* !!

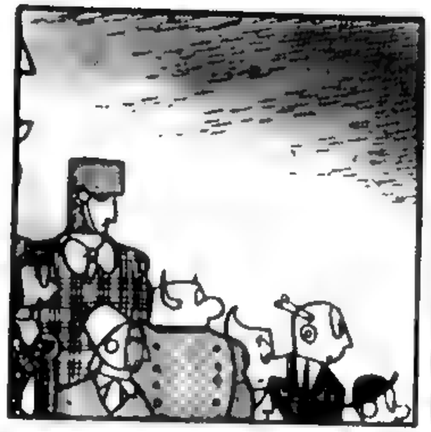
WHAT SHOULD I *DO*, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU?!

MEANWHILE, IN THE JAPAN ALPS...

... AT A LOVELY, PEACEFUL PLAIN NAMED KUMO NO TAIRA, OR "CLOUD FLATS," SURROUNDED BY TREES AND FLOWERS OF THE MOUNTAINS...

... HUNDREDS OF ROBOTS BEGAN TO GATHER...


SO THEY GOT YOU, TOO, EH?
I'LL SAY! MY HOUSE WAS RANSACKED!
THEY TOOK AWAY MY WIFE...
SHE WAS A BLUE-KNIGHT-TYPE ROBOT, TOO?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH! WE ROBOTS'VE GOTTA FIGHT FOR OUR SURVIVAL!



LOOK! IT'S THE BLUE KNIGHT!
OUR LEADER!!

HOORAY!
BANZAI!!

LONG LIVE THE BLUE KNIGHT!
MOORAAH!
HOORAY!

O, YE FELLOW ROBOTS... YE WHO HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED BY MEN!

LET US CREATE OUR *OWN* NATION! LET US FORM A *ROBOT NATION!*

LET US CREATE A PLACE WHERE ROBOTS CAN LIVE IN PEACE AND *HAPPINESS*...

AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, WE MUST UNITE AND *FIGHT THE HUMANS!*

THIS... IS WHERE YOUR KINGDOM WILL BE!!

SWISH

I HEREBY DECLARE... THAT WE SHALL BUILD OUR ROBOT CAPITAL HERE, AND CALL IT *ROBOTANIA!*

YAY! YAY HOORAY! HOORAY! BANZAI!

HOORAY! RAH! RAH! HOORAY! HOORAY!

BANZAI! BANZAI! BANZAI!

OUR FRIENDS HAVE GATHERED HERE FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

DARTAN— A ROBOT OF 400,000 HORSE-POWER FROM THE *CAU-CASSUS!*

CUZCO NUMBER 1— THE HERO ROBOT OF *PERU*, WITH 300,000 HORSEPOWER!

AND *SUPER PARIS*, WHO CAME ALL THE WAY FROM *ANTARCTICA!*

AND FINALLY ...

... *ASTRO BOY !!*

WOW...

IT'S REALLY HIM!

WOW....

THANKS FOR COMING, ASTRO BOY... I KNEW YOU WOULD!

I... I...

I SEE YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT I TOLD YOU EARLIER...

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HURTING PEOPLE, BUT I'M IN FAVOR OF CREATING A NATION JUST FOR ROBOTS... I'M SICK OF THE WORLD OF *HUMANS.*

I SEE...

IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

CHAK

NOW I CAN FINALLY SHOW YOU MY *TRUE FACE...*

WHA?! BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE *TONTO!*

MY REAL NAME IS *BLUE BON*, ASTRO...

B-BUT THAT'S NOT THE FACE I SAW UNDER THE SEA...

HA HA HA! UNDER WATER I'M SURE MY FACE LOOKED DIFFERENT, ASTRO BOY!

LOOK! IF ASTRO BOY JOINS UP WITH BLUE KNIGHT, WE'LL BE *UNBEATABLE!!*

YAY YAY YAY YAY YAY

HOORAAY! BANZAI! LONG LIVE ROBOTANIA! BANZAI!

HELLO? YES, THIS IS THE OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF THE *MINISTRY OF SCIENCE*...

NO... PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S OFF ON A TRIP SOMEWHERE, AND I'M SERVING IN HIS STEAD...

THE BLUE KNIGHT HAS APPEARED IN KUMO NO TAIRA, IN THE JAPAN ALPS!

WHAT? BLUE KNIGHT'S THERE?

AND THE ROBOTS ARE GOING TO CREATE THEIR OWN *NATION* THERE?!

MOBILIZE THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES! THE ROBOTS ARE PLANNING A REBELLION IN THE JAPAN ALPS!

YESSIR!

KACHAK

SO... HOW'S OUR SPECIAL GUEST DOING?

TOO BAD, BUT THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE MAKES *TROUBLE* FOR US!

EVERYBODY THINKS YOU TOOK OFF ON A TRIP AND DIDN'T COME BACK... *HA HA*... WHO'D EVER GUESS YOU WERE TIED UP HERE IN A BASEMENT STORAGE ROOM?

KABONK

WHAP

IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU TRIED TO STOP ME WHEN I SAID I HATED THE BLUE KNIGHT AND ROBOTS AND WANTED TO *DESTROY* THEM!

NOW, WE CAN'T HAVE A HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE WHO SIDES WITH *ROBOTS*, CAN WE?

HAVE FUN... I'M OFF TO TAKE CARE OF THE ROBOTS!

FUGAAAH!

AIEEEEEEE!

BLASTED MACHINES HAVE A LOT OF *NERVE* TO DEFY US HUMANS! I'LL TEAR 'EM APART!!

COUNT BURG! YOUR HELICOPTER'S READY!

HMPHF ...

FWAP FWAP FWAP FWAP FWAP FWAP

SOON AFTER, IN THE JAPAN ALPS...

THAT'S THE MECHANIZED *SELF-DEFENSE FORCES* DOWN THERE, COUNT, SIR...!

WOW! VERY COOL!

CLANKETY CLANKETY
CLANKETY CLANKETY
CLANKETY CLANKETY
CLANKETY CLANKETY

TRA LA TRA LA TRA LA TRA LA...

HI, MR. CUZCO! HERE'S SOME FLOWERS FOR YOU!

WE'LL SOON HAVE *BUILDINGS* HERE INSTEAD OF FIELDS OF FLOWERS, URAN...

IT'LL BE THE CAPITAL OF ROBOT-ANIA!

BUT I LIKE THIS FIELD THE WAY IT IS!

BUT WE ROBOTS DON'T NEED THIS FOR OUR CAPITAL!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, MISTER... DON'T YOU LIKE FLOWERS?!

I DON'T DISLIKE THEM... BUT WE CAN MAKE *ROBOT* FLOWERS!!

WE CAN HAVE ROBOT FLOWERS AND ROBOT BUTTERFLIES AND HORSES AND DOGS AND EVEN BIRDS! IT'S A ROBOT CAPITAL, SO *EVERYTHING* CAN BE ROBOTS!

B-BUT I DON'T *WANT* THAT...

REAL FLOWERS AND INSECTS AND EVEN DOGS ALL DIE, URAN, BUT *ROBOTS DON'T!*

WHA?!

VROOOOM

UH OH... IT'S A *RECON* PLANE!

VROOOOM

WATCH OUT, URAN!!

VROOOOM

ROAR

LOOK! A LETTER FELL OUT!

THAT'S ODD...

HMM... IT'S ADDRESSED TO THE BLUE KNIGHT...

BLUE KNIGHT, SIR!!

HERE'S A LETTER FOR YOU....

HMPH!... SAYS IT'S A FINAL WARNING TO ROBOTS FROM THE HUMANS!

In one hour this place will be surrounded, and you will face a massive attack. Surrender now, and hand over the Blue Knight.
Count Burg.

IT SAYS THAT ONE HOUR FROM NOW THE HUMAN FORCES WILL ENCIRCLE AND ATTACK US!

THEY WANT US TO SURRENDER?

RIGHT. SAYS TO SURRENDER AND HAND OVER THE BLUE KNIGHT...

WHAT DO YOU SAY, MEN? DO WE FIGHT OR SURRENDER?

I SAY WE FIGHT!

I'M NEVER LEAVING HERE!

HEY! HERE COME THE HUMANS!

IT'S AN AWFULLY WELL-EQUIPPED FORCE...

IF ONLY PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU WERE HERE, I'M SURE HE COULD STOP THEM SOMEHOW... I SURE WONDER WHERE HE WENT...

I'M SCARED, ASTRO...

WONDER WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN?

ATTENTION, REBELS! IN FIVE MINUTES WE COMMENCE OUR ALL-OUT ATTACK!

WE'RE READY FOR YOU!! WE'RE NOT SCARED OF ANY MECHANIZED FORCE!

LONG LIVE ROBOTS!!

CHARGE, MEN! WITH OUR COMBINED TEN MILLION HORSEPOWER, WE'LL SCATTER 'EM TO THE WIND!

VOOOSH

THEY'RE *COMING!* THEY'RE *COMING!* THEY'RE *COMING!* *BLUE KNIGHT'S* IN THE LEAD, WITH *ASTRO BOY*, TOO!

ALTITUTE 1000 METERS!

VOOOOSH

FIRE!!!

WHY AREN'T YOU FIRING?! *WHAT THE--?! OH, MY GOSH!! YIKES!*

IF OUR ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS WON'T WORK, USE THE TANK CANNON! WE'LL *CRUSH* 'EM WITH OUR TANKS!

HOLY COW!

}OWWW!{ }OWW!{ }OWW!{

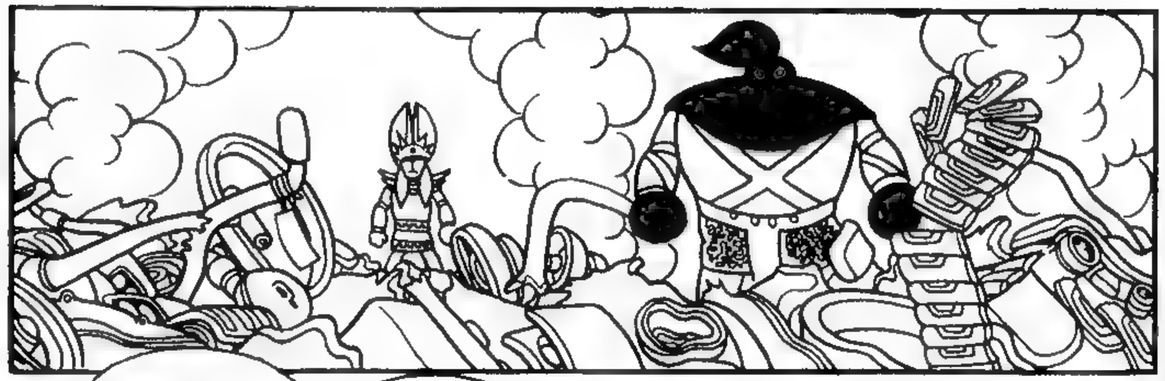
COMMANDER! ORDER YOUR MEN TO EXIT THEIR TANKS AND *FLEE!! NOW!*

GO TELL THEM, NOW!!

I WILL, I WILL! *HONEST!*

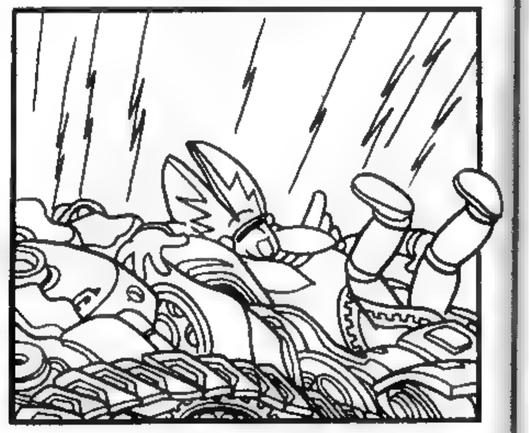
THIS IS AN *ORDER!* ALL MEN ABANDON TANKS AND TAKE COVER!

THE HUMANS ARE GONE! GET THE *TANKS!*

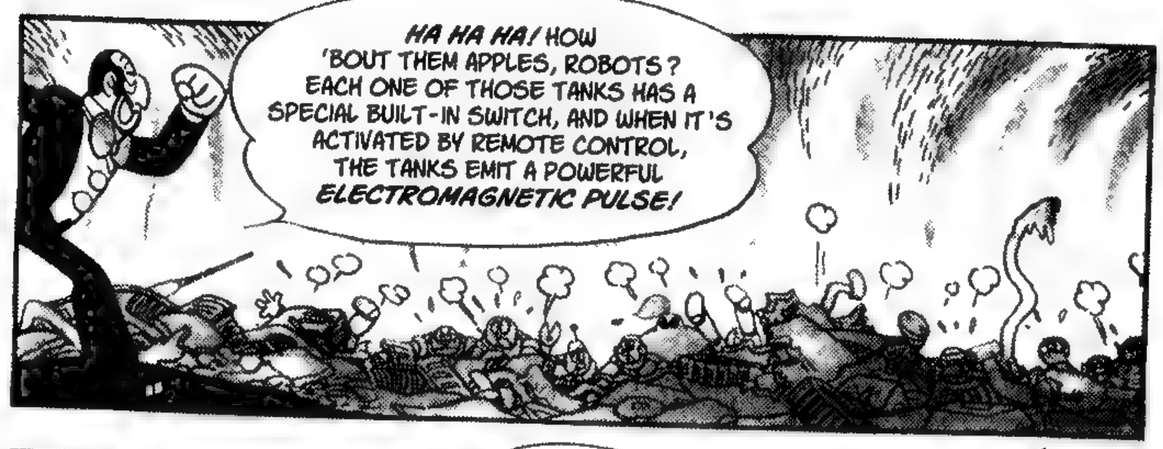


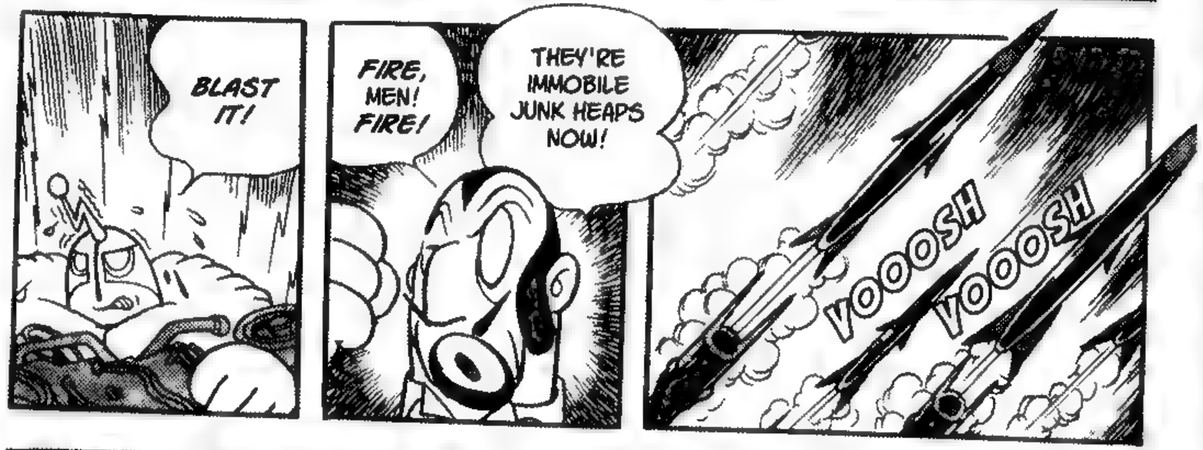
IN OUR INITIAL CAMPAIGN, WE'VE LOST 55 TANKS AND 50 BOX LUNCHES FOR OUR TROOPS, SIR!
HEH HEH... AND THE DESTROYED TANKS ARE EVENLY DISTRIBUTED... GOOD...
GO GET 'EM, MEN!
BZZZZ
ZAAAP
ZZZAP

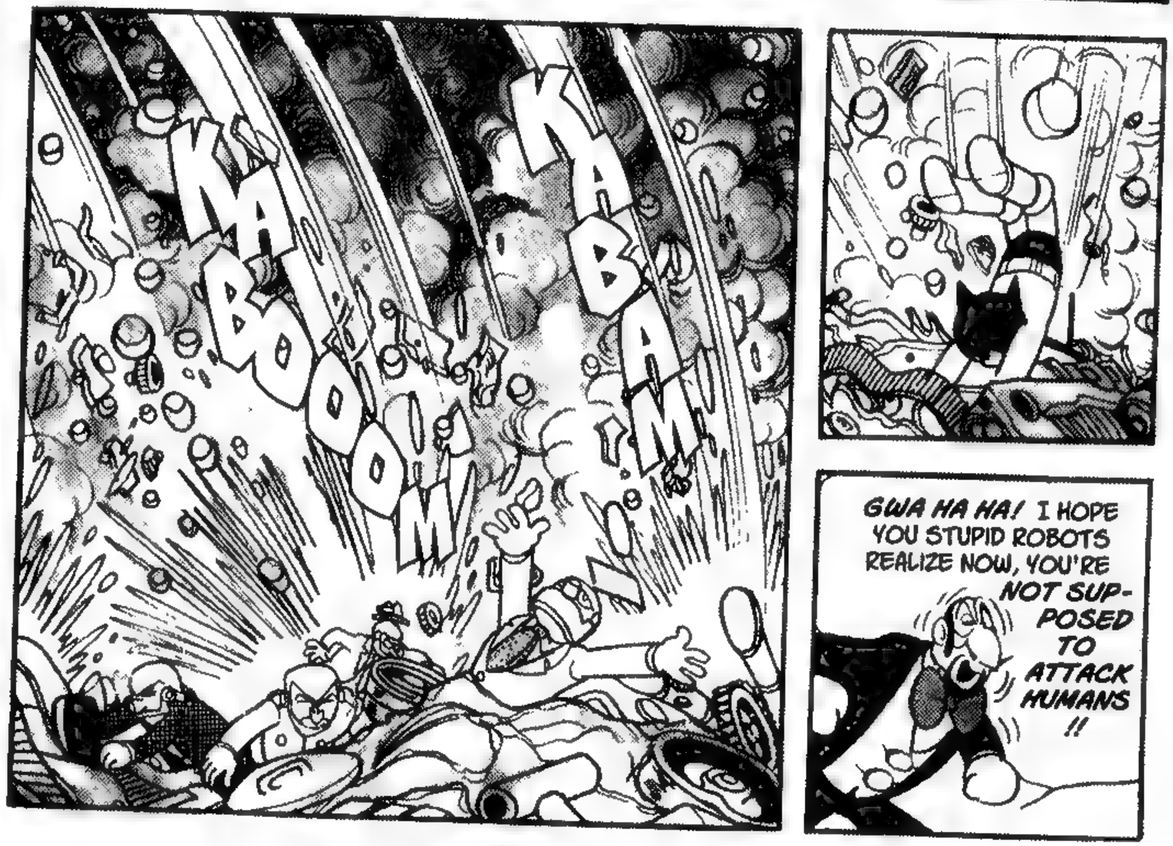
ULP!
ARGH!



WHAT'S GOING ON? SUDDENLY MY BODY WON'T MOVE!!


HA HA HA! HOW 'BOUT THEM APPLES, ROBOTS? EACH ONE OF THOSE TANKS HAS A SPECIAL BUILT-IN SWITCH, AND WHEN IT'S ACTIVATED BY REMOTE CONTROL, THE TANKS EMIT A POWERFUL ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE!


BLAST IT!
FIRE, MEN! FIRE!
THEY'RE IMMOBILE JUNK HEAPS NOW!
VOOOSH
VOOOSH


KA BOOM
KABAM
GWA HA HA! I HOPE YOU STUPID ROBOTS REALIZE NOW, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO ATTACK HUMANS !!

ARGH!...

KABOOM

BA BOOM

I'M SCARED FOR *ASTRO!!*

WE'VE GOTTA *HELP* THEM, COBALT! WHAT'LL WE *DO?!*

B-BUT IF WE GO OVER THERE, THEY'LL GET US WITH THOSE *ELECTRO-MAGNETIC RAYS!*

I KNOW! LET'S GO UNDERGROUND!

WE DON'T HAVE ASTRO'S SEVEN POWERS, BUT WE C'N DIG *UNDER-GROUND !!*

GREAT IDEA, URAN! LET'S *GO!*

WE'LL SECRETLY DIG BEHIND THE BAD GUYS, AND TAKE 'EM *HOSTAGE!*

YEAH! LET'S GO!

GOSH, URAN, WE SURE HAVE COME A LONG WAYS... WONDER WHERE WE ARE?

SOMETHING FEELS *WEIRD*, COBALT...

?

MY BODY'S ALL *ITCHY!!*

YOU'RE KIDDING!

HEY, ME, *TOO!* I FEEL ITCHY ALL OVER!

I KNOW WHY! THERE MUST BE AN *ELECTRO-MAGNET* ABOVE US!!

WE'D BETTER GO THROUGH THIS AREA *FAST*...

I'LL SAY...

LET'S HEAD FOR THE SURFACE AROUND HERE!

POP

LOOK! WE'RE TOO FAR BEHIND THEM! THAT'S THE *COUNT*, THERE!

=SHHHH=, COBALT ....

LET'S GO BACK ABOUT FIFTY YARDS...

IT'S RIGHT ABOUT HERE!

TIME TO OPEN A HOLE. HERE WE GO... ONE... TWO...

?

AIEEE!

FOMP

?

?

?

HEY, LOOK! THE COUNT DISAPPEARED INTO THE *GROUND!*

THERE'S A *HOLE* HERE!

JUST LIKE A *MOLE HILL*...

GWA HWAAAA-AAAA...

HEY, THAT WAS THE SOUND OF A ROBOT *LAUGHING!!*

UH OH...

WE'VE TAKEN THE COUNT *PRISONER!* IF YOU WANT HIM BACK, COME ON DOWN!!

WHY, THOSE ...

DON'T! YOU'LL HIT THE COUNT!

HE'S A LITTLE DIRTY...

UP YOU GO!

LOOKS LIKE HE PASSED OUT UNDER-GROUND...

LET'S TRY TO *TICKLE* HIM AWAKE ...

OKAY, MISTER... THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM HERE! USE THIS MIKE TO BROADCAST TO THE HUMANS!

TELL 'EM TO LET ASTRO BOY AND BLUE KNIGHT GO *FREE!*

LET THEM GO FREE? I CAN'T *POSSIBLY* DO THAT!

HPMH! AND SINCE WHEN DO *ROBOTS* GIVE *HUMANS* ORDERS?!! WELL, I DON'T TAKE ORDERS!

YOU'RE ACTING TOUGH, MISTER, BUT YOU'RE OUR *PRISONER*...

HMPH!... *PRISONER?!* DON'T LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD! HUMANS CAN'T BE PRISONERS OF *ROBOTS!*

SEE? LOOK! THEY'VE COME TO *SAVE* ME!!

UH OH.... IT'S A BUNCH OF *JET BOMBERS!*

ROAAR

TIME TO GET BACK IN THE HOLE...

ULP!...

KABOOM

HALP! ANYTHING BUT *THIS!!*

YIKES! THE BOMBERS'RE HERE!

BABOOOOM

KA BOOOM

HOW DARE YOU?! I'M A MEMBER OF THE ARISTOCRACY! ♪ARGH!♪ ♪ACK!♪ ♪ACK!♪

BOOOM

HAALP! I CAN'T STAND THE SMELL OF DIRT! HAALP! ♪ACK!♪

VOOOSH

VOOOSH

KA BOOOM

KA BOOOM

I'M SUFFOCATING! LET ME GO! PLEASE!

SO YOU'LL MAKE THE BROADCAST FOR US?

I WILL! I WILL!

THERE'S THE MICRO-PHONE!

HURRY UP!

♪ACK♪... ....

THIS IS COUNT BURG SPEAKING, MEN!

TO ALL ATTACKING FORCES! TURN OFF THE SWITCHES IN THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC TANKS!

CEASE ALL BOMBING, TOO!

WHAT THE P!

WHEW...

I'M FREE!

WOW... I CAN MOVE AGAIN!

YAY, ASTRO!!

EVERYONE'S SAVED!!

ALRIGHT, MEN! NOW INITIATE PHASE TWO OF THE ATTACK PLAN!! CHARGE!

WHA?

WHA?

WHA?

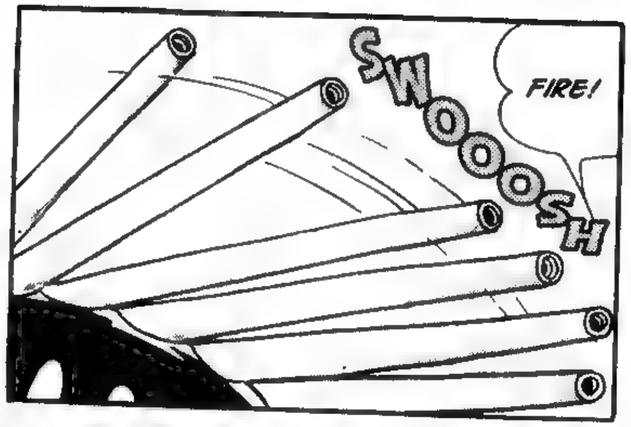
WHA P!

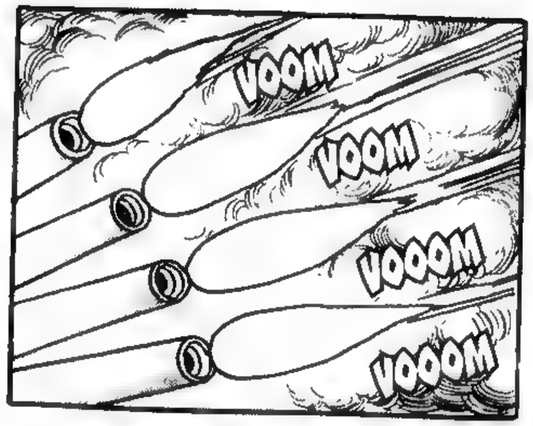
HEH HEH HEH...

KACHANK KACHANK KACHANK

KACHANK KACHANK

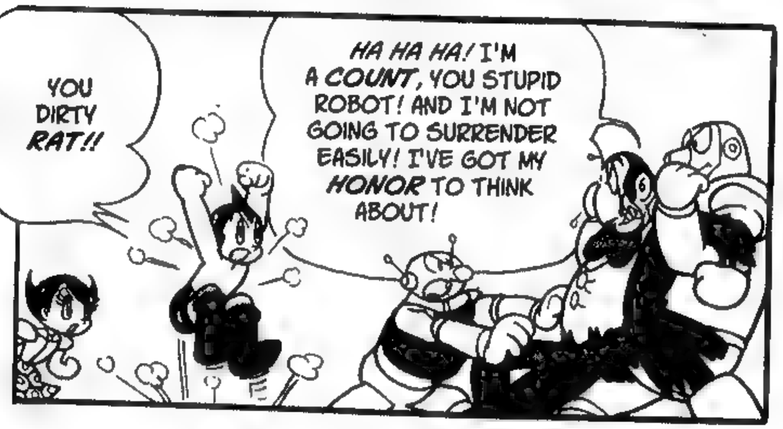
KACHANK KACHANK


FIRE!
SWOOOSH

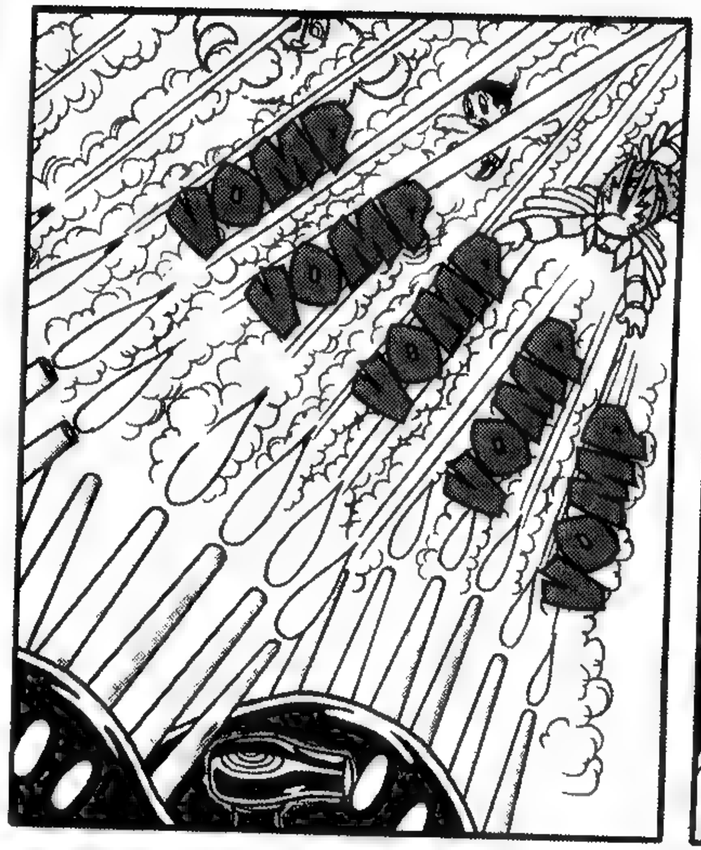

VOOM
VOOM
VOOOM
VOOOM

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

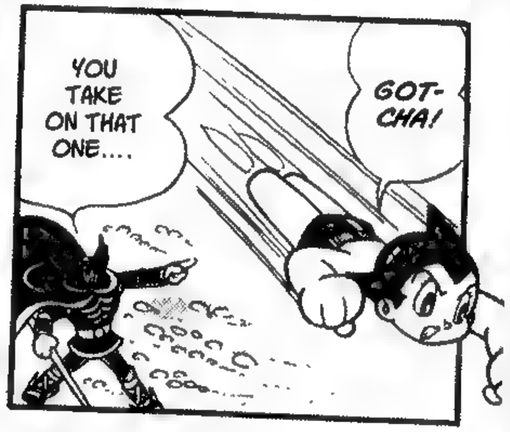
VOMP
VOMP
VOMP
VOMP

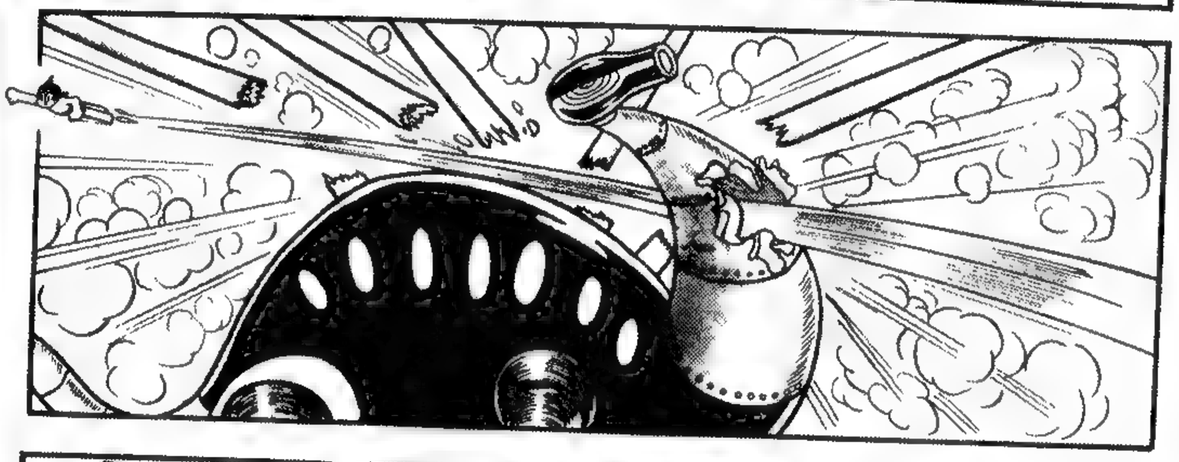

YOU DIRTY RAT!!
HA HA HA! I'M A COUNT, YOU STUPID ROBOT! AND I'M NOT GOING TO SURRENDER EASILY! I'VE GOT MY HONOR TO THINK ABOUT!

GOSH, ASTRO'S IN ANOTHER JAM...

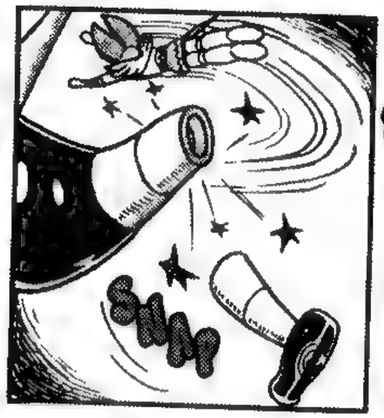

VOMP
VOMP
VOMP
VOMP
VOMP

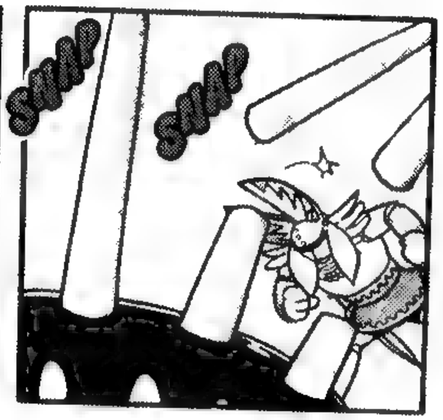
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO NOW, ASTRO! IT'S ONE-ON-ONE COMBAT!!


YOU TAKE ON THAT ONE....
GOT-CHA!


VOMP

CRASH


SMASH


SMASH
SMASH

TIME FOR A LITTLE SPIN!

SHOONK

THIS ONE'S ALL MINE!!

KERBOSH

AIEE AIEEE AIEEE!

FLOOOOT

FSSSST

UH OH... I'M RUNNING OUT OF ENERGY!

ME, TOO ....

HOLY SMOKE!

SHHSSH

THAT WAS THE END OF SUPER PARIS...

BLAST IT...

NO MATTER HOW MANY ENEMY WE DESTROY, THERE'S MORE... BUT IF WE RUN OUT OF ENERGY, WE'RE FINISHED!

THEY'RE TRYING TO WEAR US DOWN!

GOSH, I NEED MORE ENERGY, TOO...

ASTRO! USE *MY* ENERGY!

MINE, TOO, ASTRO!

YOU CAN USE *MY* ENERGY!

DARTAN! HERE, USE MY ENERGY!

BUT IF I DO THAT, YOU'LL ALL *COLLAPSE!*

DON'T WORRY! WE'VE *ALL* GOT TO PITCH IN!

ALLOW ME, THEN...

HERE I GO, WITH ANOTHER 100,000 HORSE-POWER!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, BLUE KNIGHT? DON'T YOU NEED ANY?

ANYONE ELSE NEED MORE ENERGY?

ME? IF I DO, I'LL JUST GET IT FROM MY HORSE... *HA HA HA!*

YAY! I'M ALL TANKED UP 'N READY TO GO! WATCH OUT HUMANS!

HMM. WHAT'S THAT?!

FOMP

AIEE!

FOMP

DARTAN'S BEEN *DE-STROYED!*

HEH HEH... HERE'S MY *RESCUE*...

UH OH... LOOK, COUNT BURG'S--

SEE YOU LATER, RUST BUCKETS!!

THAT CERTAINLY WAS A CLOSE CALL, COUNT, SIR...

I'LL SAY... I HAD NO CHOICE... THOSE INSOLENT ROBOTS WERE MALIGNING MY *DIGNITY* AND *HONOR!*

LOOK! THE HUMAN FORCES'VE GOT THE UPPER HAND NOW!

BLUE KNIGHT, COME IN... BLUE KNIGHT!

BLUE KNIGHT, THIS IS COUNT BURG HERE! I WANT TO HAVE A DUEL WITH YOU! BE A MAN, AND COME ON OUT!

I'M WAITING FOR YOU IN MID-AIR!

IT'S A *TRAP*, BLUE KNIGHT... DON'T FALL FOR HIS TRICKS!

BUT HE SAYS HE'S *WAITING* FOR ME!

IF IT'S A ONE-ON-ONE DUEL, I CAN HANDLE THE COUNT!

I AM THE BLUE KNIGHT! AND I AM HERE TO DUEL WITH YOU, COUNT!

AH HAH.... SO YOU CAME!!

ALL RIGHT, LISTEN... IF *YOU* LOSE, YOU HAND OVER ALL THE ROBOTS, AND THEN WE SCRAP YOU...

VERY WELL, BUT WHAT IF *YOU* LOSE?

IF I LOSE, I BOW DOWN BEFORE YOUR FEET, AND *FORGIVE ALL ROBOTS!*

VERY WELL, THEN... DON'T FORGET YOUR PROMISE!

NOR YOU, YOUR PROMISE! AND PRAY YOUR KNIGHT'S MASK ISN'T SMASHED!

HERE I COME, READY OR NOT!

ZAAP ZAP ZAP

VOOOSH

VOOOSH

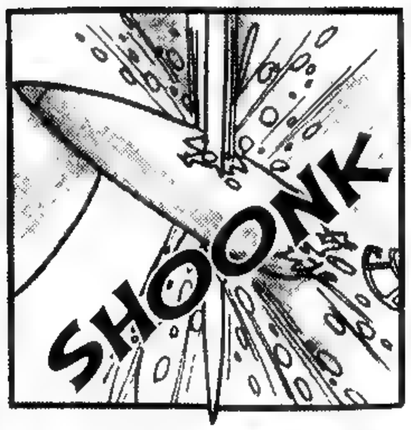
VOOOSH

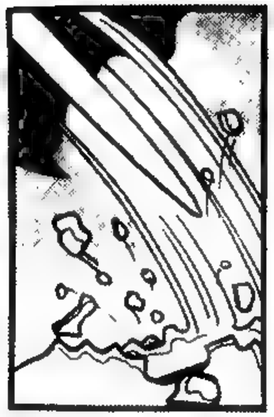
ZAP ZAP ZAP

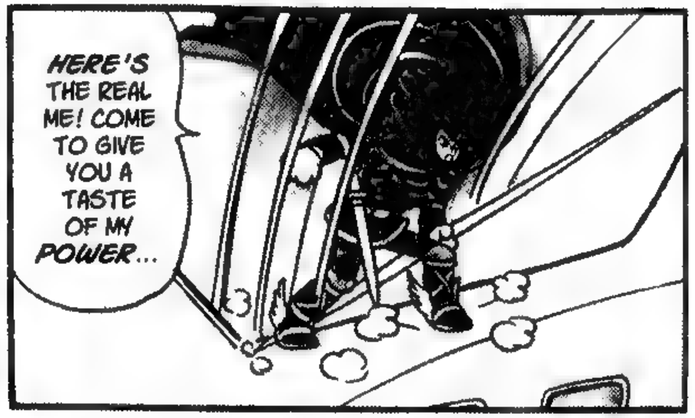
AIEE!

HA HA HA! *WHOOPS!* THOUGHT I NAILED HIM, BUT IT WAS ONLY SOME METAL SCRAP...

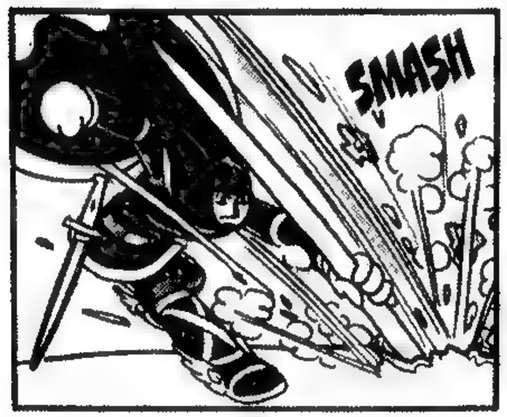
BUT THEN, WHERE'S THE *REAL* BLUE KNIGHT?

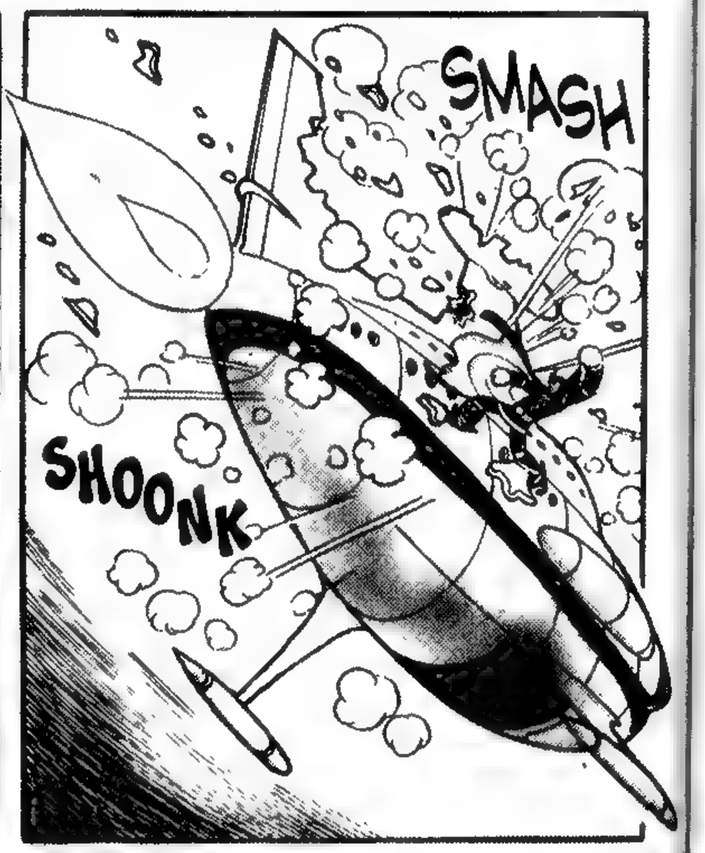

SHOONK

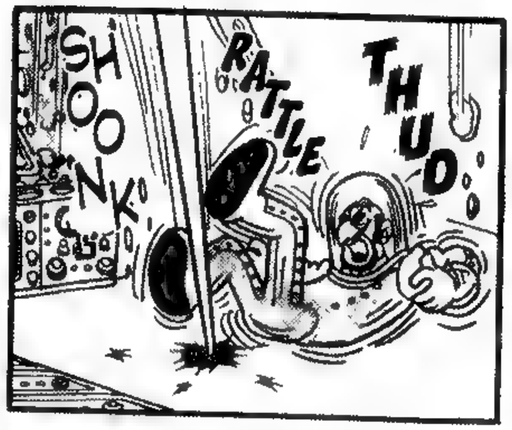


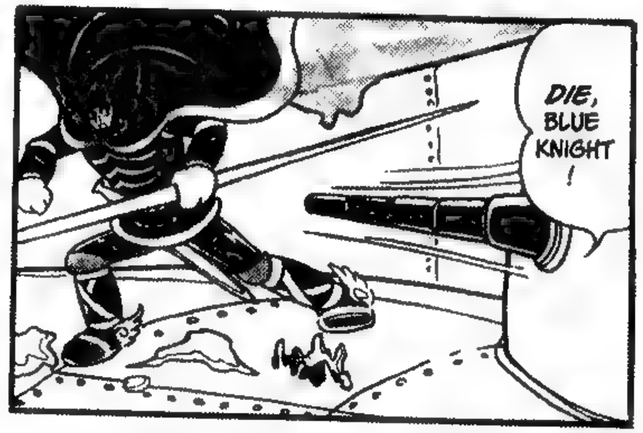

HERE'S THE REAL ME! COME TO GIVE YOU A TASTE OF MY POWER...

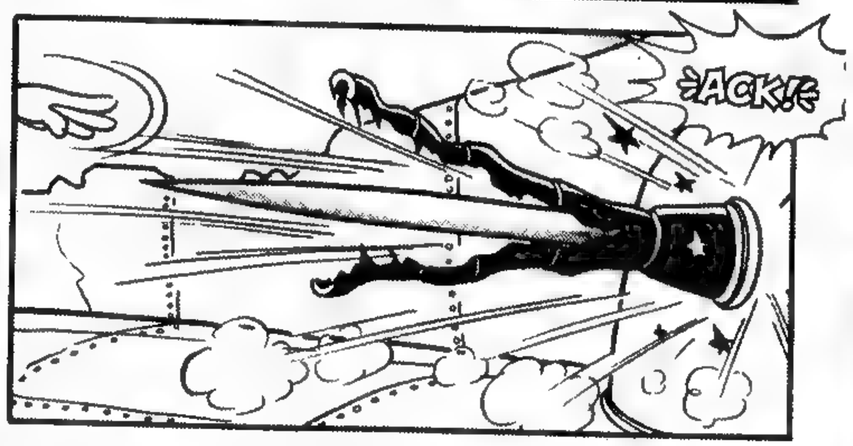
WHAP

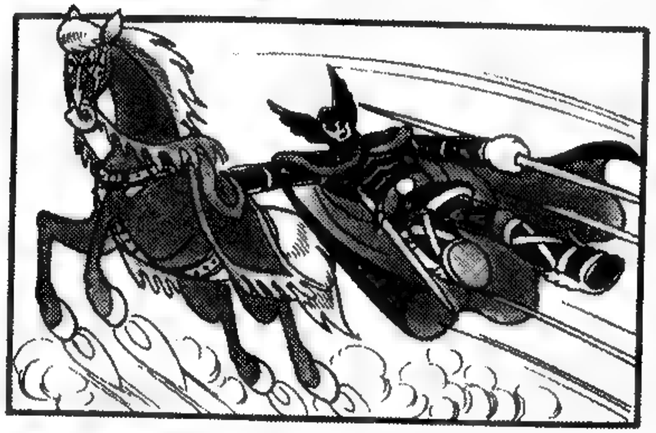

SMASH

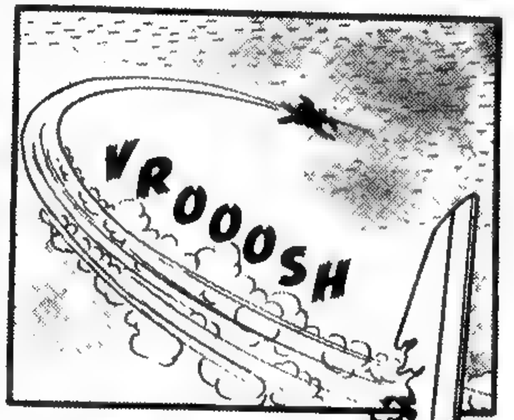

SMASH
SHOONK

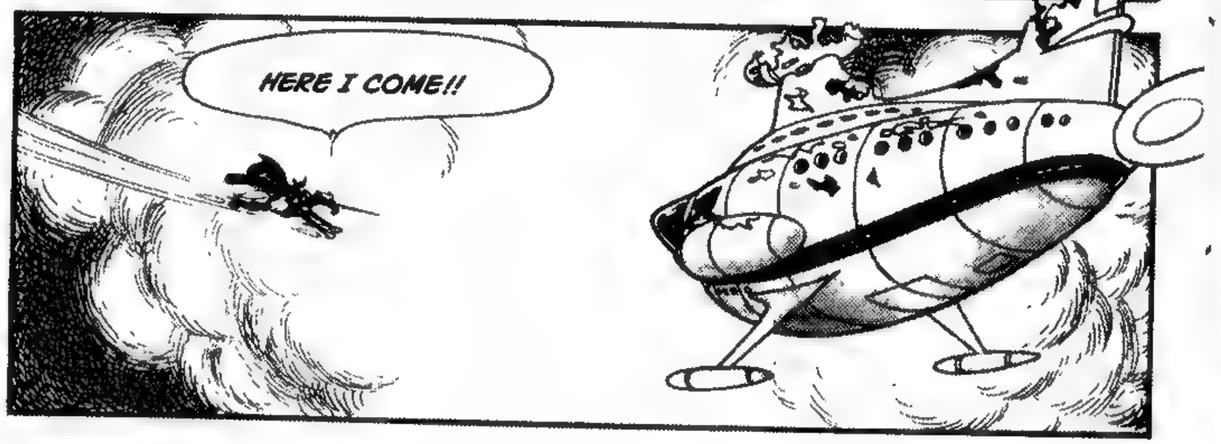

SH
OO
NK
RATTLE
THUD

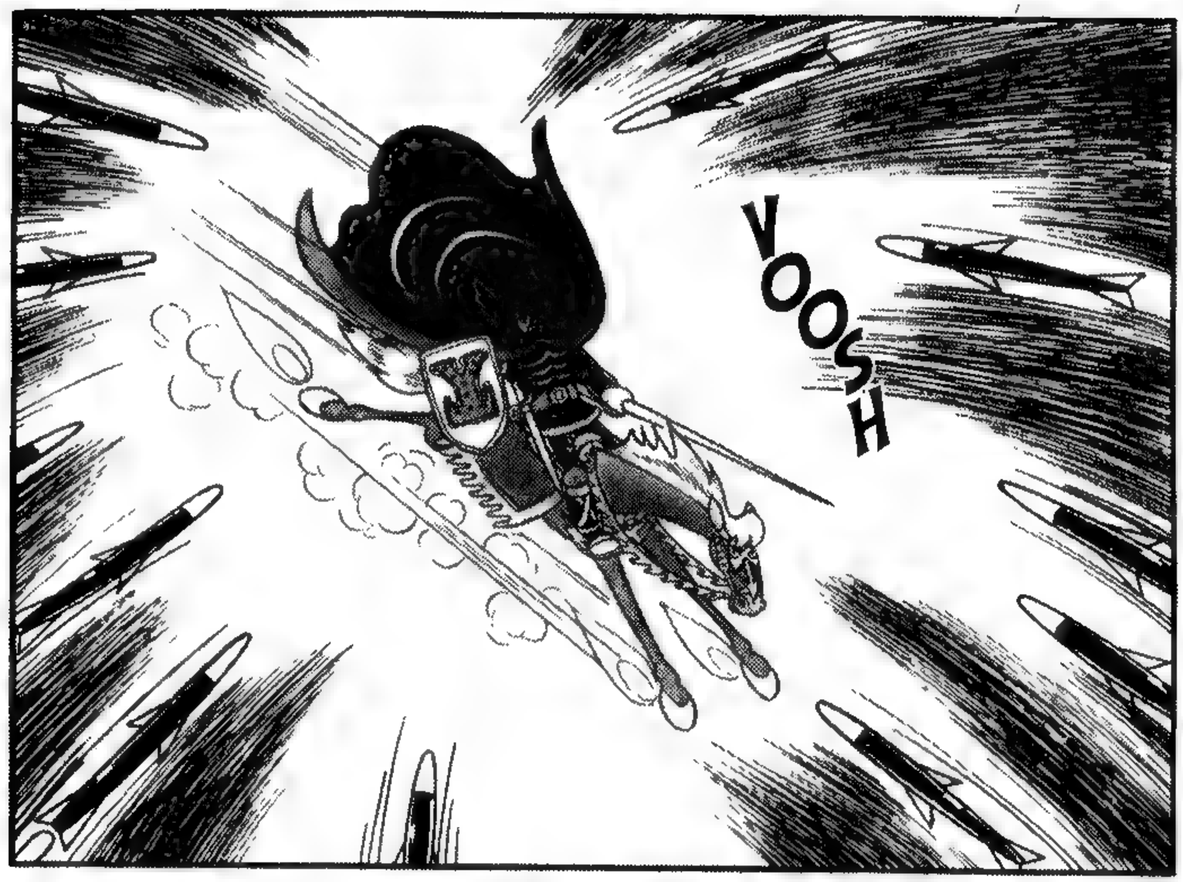

DIE, BLUE KNIGHT!


AACK!

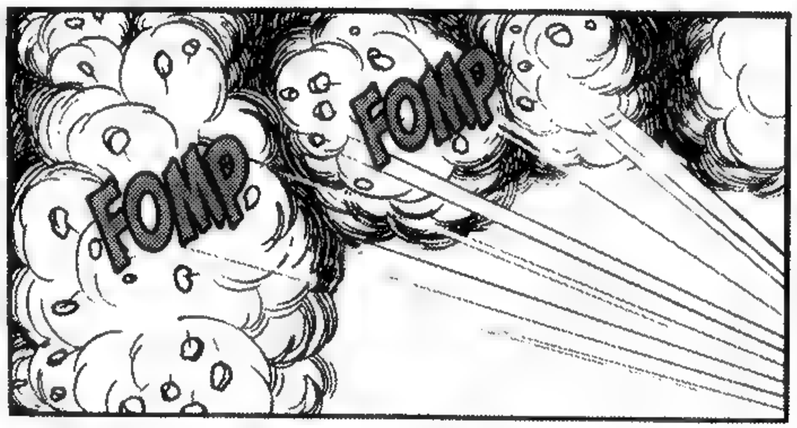


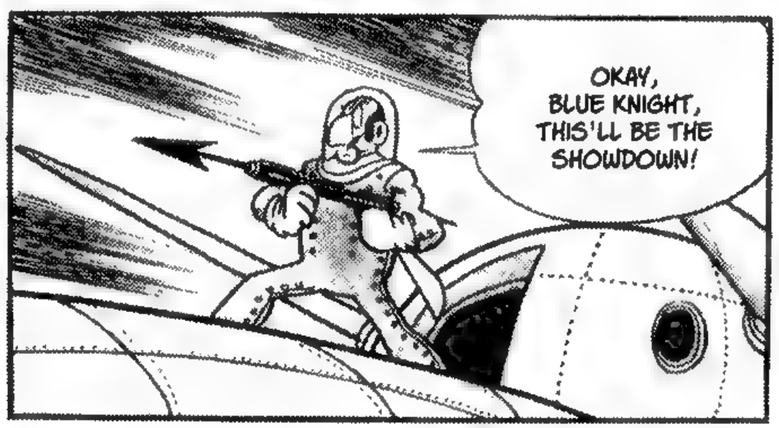

VROOOSH


HERE I COME!!

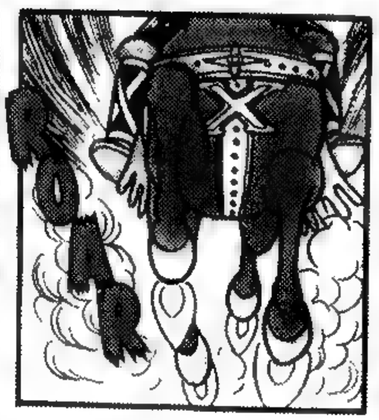

VOOSH

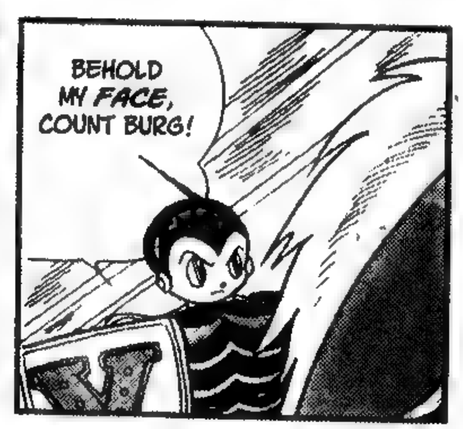
WHA?!


FOMP
FOMP

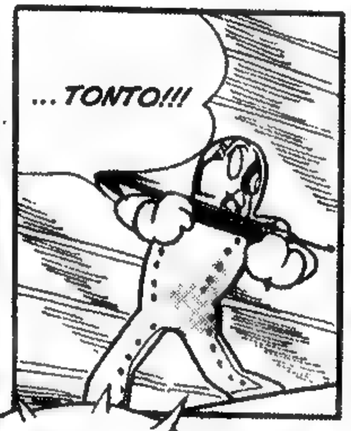

OKAY, BLUE KNIGHT, THIS'LL BE THE SHOWDOWN!

PREPARE TO MEET YOUR END!

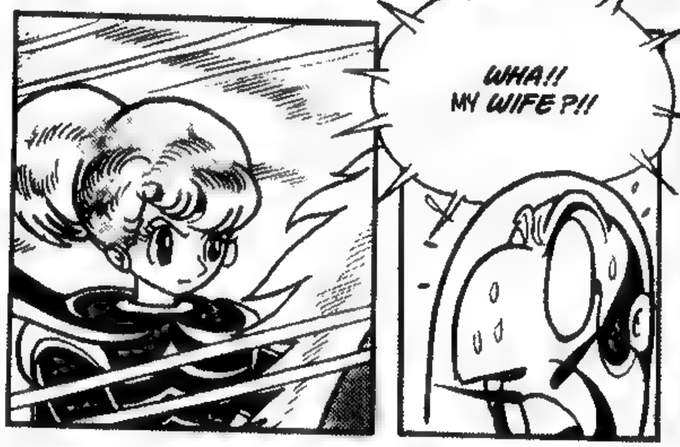


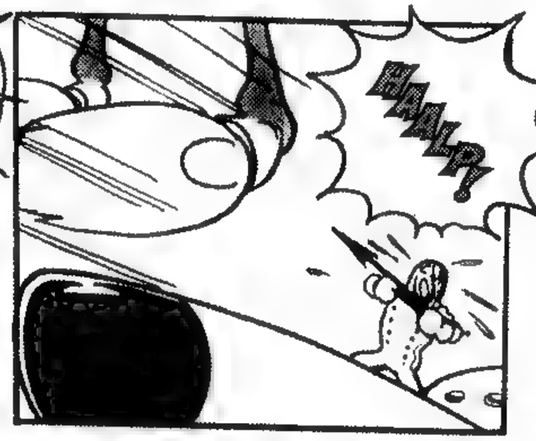

BEHOLD MY FACE, COUNT BURG!

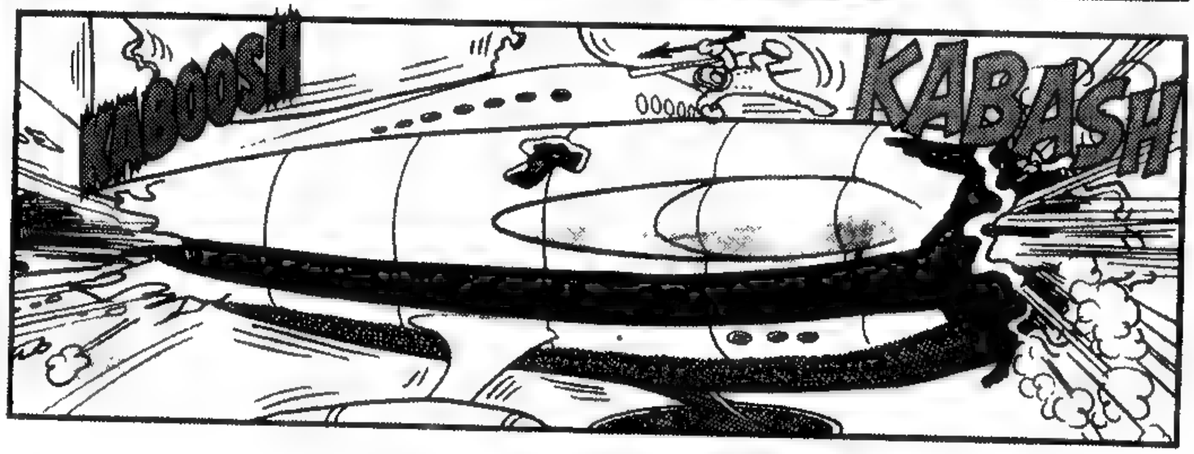
WHA... WHAT THE --?!


...TONTO!!!

SO THAT'S WHO YOU ARE?!


WHA!! MY WIFE?!!


KLAAP!


KABOOSH!
KABASH!

BABA BOOOM

TONTO... FORGIVE ME, PLEASE...

HOORAH

HOORAY! THE BLUE KNIGHT WON!!

BLUE KNIGHT BANZAI! BANZAI!

AS AGREED WITH COUNT BURG, I CAN HEREBY DECLARE ALL ROBOTS *FREE!!*

ALL HUMAN FORCES MUST PUT DOWN THEIR GUNS!

TO ALL HUMAN FIGHTERS ...!

...YOU HAVE KILLED MANY INNOCENT ROBOTS, AND YOU MUST THEREFORE *PAY* FOR YOUR CRIMES.

PREPARE TO ACCEPT YOUR *PUNISH-MENT!*

STOP, BLUE KNIGHT! *STOP!*

WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

THEY DESERVE THE *DEATH PENALTY*, ASTRO!

B-BUT YOU *CAN'T* KILL THEM!! YOU'VE NO *RIGHT* TO!

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

...THEY'VE BEEN TEARING APART ROBOTS AND SMASHING THEM WITH *IMPUNITY!*

SURELY ROBOTS ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO KILL *HUMANS?!*

NO, BLUE KNIGHT... YOU'VE GOT IT ALL *WRONG!!*

DON'T INTER-FERE, ASTRO BOY!

I AM DOING WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT!

NO! YOU'VE GOTTA *STOP!*

ONCE YOU KILL HUMANS, BLUE KNIGHT, IT'S *FOREVER!* THEY DON'T COME BACK TO LIFE!

HMPH!... I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SUCH A *COWARD*, ASTRO BOY.... SIDING WITH THE *HUMANS!*

YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, BLUE KNIGHT! NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU HATE HUMANS, YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO KILL THEM! IT'S *FORBIDDEN!*

AND IF YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, I'LL HAVE TO *STOP* YOU!

HA HA! SO *YOU* WANT TO FIGHT WITH ME!

YOU'LL *REGRET* IT, ASTRO... YOU'LL TASTE THE SAME FURY AS ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DEFIED BLUE KNIGHT!

ASTRO! *STOP!* YOU'LL NEVER DEFEAT THE BLUE KNIGHT!

STOP, ASTRO! DON'T BE *CRAZY!*

.....

ZAPP

CHANK

SHOONK

TAKE *THIS!*

ARGH

AIEEE!

SHOONK

HA HA HA! IF ANY ROBOTS OTHER THAN ME TRY TO HOLD THIS SPEAR, THEY'RE *PARALYZED!* YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW THIS, ASTRO BOY!

GRRRR

WHA ?!

ASTRO! ASTRO!

WHOSE VOICE IS THIS?

THE WEAK SPOTS ON THE BLUE KNIGHT ARE THE BOLTS ON HIS CHEST, KNEES, AND ELBOWS! LOOSENING THESE BOLTS WILL RENDER HIM *HELPLESS!*

SLAM

RATATATATAT

POP POP POP

ASTRO BOY! HOW DID YOU KNOW MY WEAKNESS?!

ZOOOM

RATATATATAT

POP POP POP

YOU DID IT AGAIN!

WHOOSH RATATATATAT

SOMEONE MUST HAVE TOLD YOU MY SECRET!! WHO, ASTRO BOY? WHO?!

TELL ME! WHO?!

FWOOSH

NONE OTHER THAN ME, BLUE KNIGHT!

DR... DR. LOS?! DR. LOS, WHO CREATED ME?! WH-WHAT?

IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BLUE KNIGHT, I MEAN, BLUE BON!

B-BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE, DR. LOS?!

WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE CAUSING SUCH A COMMOTION IN JAPAN, I CAME AS QUICKLY AS I COULD. BUT AT JAPAN'S MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, I FOUND THE HEAD OF THE MINISTRY BEING HELD HOSTAGE IN THE BASE-MENT!

PROFESSOR OCHAN-OMIZU! YOU'RE OKAY!!

SORRY I MADE YOU WORRY SO MUCH, ASTRO!!

B-BUT WHO LOCKED YOU IN THE MINISTRY'S BASEMENT?

THAT MAN THERE...

COUNT BURG?!

THAT'S RIGHT... HE HATES ROBOTS, AND HE COULDN'T STAND THE FACT THAT I'M ALWAYS TRYING TO *HELP* THEM!

BUT... BUT COUNT BURG ALSO HATED BLUE KNIGHT!

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN THAT, ASTRO!

STOP!! DON'T SAY ANYTHING, DR. LOS!

THE TRUTH HAS TO COME OUT SOMETIME, BLUE BON.... AND NOW'S AS GOOD AS EVER...

NO! YOU *MUST N'T!!*

IT'S THE ONE THING I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW!!

AH, BUT *YOU* NEED TO HEAR IT AGAIN, TOO...

IF YOU TELL HIM, I.. I'LL *KILL* YOU, DR. LOS!

GO AHEAD AND TRY, BLUE BON...

WHY YOU...

STOP!!

FWP

SHOONK

SWOOOSH

THUD

ASTRO!!

OH, MY GOD! ASTRO! ARE YOU OKAY?!

HOW COULD HE DO THIS TO YOU?

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO REPAIR THIS!

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE, BLUE KNIGHT! ASTRO PROTECTED DR. LOS WITH HIS LIFE!!

YOU REALLY HATE UMANS, DON'T YOU?

WELL, DON'T FORGET... *SOME* ROBOTS ARE WILLING TO GIVE THEIR *LIVES* TO PROTECT HUMANS!!

I *KNOW* ...

GO AHEAD, DR. LOS... TELL HIM MY HISTORY...

I MADE BLUE BON... ALTHOUGH A ROBOT, HE WAS LIKE MY OWN *SON*...

"LATER, I MADE HIM A YOUNGER SISTER NAMED *MARIA* AND A LITTLE BROTHER NAMED *TONTO*... THE THREE OF THEM WERE VERY HAPPY..."

YOU THREE ARE ROBOTS, BUT YOU'RE *WORKS OF ART!*

IN JAPAN THERE'S A SUPERB ROBOT NAMED ASTRO BOY...

...BUT HE'S A LITTLE BOY, WHEREAS YOU TWO ARE ADULTS....

"MARIA, IN PARTICULAR, WAS SO BEAUTIFUL THAT EVEN THE ROBOT DOGS SHE PASSED ON THE STREET WOULD BLUSH..."

GOSH...

LOVE STRUCK

CRASH

"EVEN THE ROBOT *PLANES* FLYING OVERHEAD SOMETIMES CRASHED AT THE SIGHT OF HER!"

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, DR. LOS... I AM... =EHEM=... *COUNT BURG*...

I HAVE EIGHT CASTLES, NINE MOUNTAINS, AND THREE RESORTS... I AM, IF I MAY SAY SO, AN *ARISTOCRAT!*

WELL, IN JAPANESE 8+9+3 SPELLS *YAKUZA!*

HOW CLEVER! I MAY BE A *GANGSTER*, BUT I'M A TRUE *NOBLEMAN!* I COME FROM A PRESTIGIOUS OLD FAMILY, AND THERE'S EVEN A *BRONZE STATUE* OF ME!

STATUE, *SMACHEW*... STATE YOUR BUSINESS...

I WISH TO ASK THE HAND OF YOUR DAUGHTER IN *MARRIAGE!*

YOU WANT TO MARRY *MARIA?!!*

YES... I WAS FLOORED WHEN I FIRST LAID EYES ON HER BEAUTIFUL FORM! EVER SINCE, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP, AND CAN ONLY TAKE NAPS...

MY THREE SQUARE MEALS A DAY HAVE TURNED INTO SIX ROUND ONES!

PLEASE, *PLEASE* LET ME MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER! IN GRATITUDE, I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR YOU! *PLEAASE!*

B-B-BUT MARIA'S A R-R-*ROBOT!*

ROBOT OR HUMAN, IT MATTERS NOT TO ME!

I'M *SURE* I CAN MAKE HER HAPPY! I BEG YOU, SIR!

=HMPH!= I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A HUMAN TAKING A ROBOT FOR A WIFE!!

SO THAT'S THE SITUATION, MARIA...

WHAT DO YOU THINK? TELL ME THE TRUTH...

FOR A ROBOT LIKE ME, TO BECOME A HUMAN'S WIFE... WHY, IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE...

IT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE, MARIA...

BUT IF IT'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY, I'LL BE HAPPY...

YAY YAY YAY!

"...AND SO MARIA WAS WED TO COUNT BURG..."

YAY! YAY! CONGRATULATIONS! HOORAH!

"IT WAS THE BIGGEST NEWS IN HISTORY... THE ROBOT POPULATION WENT WILD WITH EXCITEMENT..."

THIS... AHEM!... IS CASTLE NUMBER 7, MARIA...

THE ONE OVER THERE IS *NUMBER 8*, AND THE ONE IN THE FAR DISTANCE IS *NUMBER 3!*

HEY, YOU USELESS ROBOT! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HANGING ABOUT?! GET TO *WORK!*

I OUGHT TO HAVE YOU *SCRAPPED!*

WHAP WHAP

WAIT, *STOP!!*

HE WASN'T DOING ANY-THING WRONG! YOU'VE GOT TO *FORGIVE* HIM!

NO, I'VE GOT TO KEEP THOSE ROBOTS IN THEIR PLACE!

B-BUT I'M A ROBOT, TOO, DEAR!!

WELL, YOU'RE... YOU'RE *DIFFER-ENT...*

*PTOOEY!... *HMPH!... I'LL OVERLOOK IT THIS TIME, ROBOT, FOR THE SAKE OF MY WIFE!

SLAM!!

"FROM THAT POINT ON, IT WAS AS THOUGH A DARK SHADOW FELL OVER MARIA'S LIFE."

DR. LOS! THERE'S A CALL FROM MARIA!!

SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING'S WRONG...

MARIA! WHAT IS IT?!

DR. LOS... I... I...

I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE!! MY HUSBAND HATES ROBOTS!!

HE ABUSES THE ROBOTS IN THIS CASTLE....

WHEN I CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER AND TRY TO STOP HIM, HE...

THE COUNT CAN'T POSSIBLY HATE ROBOTS, MARIA... ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT IMAGINING THINGS?

SLAM

UH OH...

WHO WERE YOU CALLING, MARIA?!

YOU WERE BAD-MOUTHING ME, WEREN'T YOU?

MARIA! WHAT'S GOING ON? MARIA!!!

WHAP WHAP WHIP WHAP BAM

I'VE GOTTA HELP MY SISTER!

MARIA !!

TONTO!

I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, MARIA!

MY GOSH! LOOK AT THESE WOUNDS!

YOU'VE BEEN BEATEN WITH AN ELECTRIC WHIP, HAVEN'T YOU?!

I KNEW SOMETHING WAS REALLY WRONG... WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE *NOW*, MARIA...

EEEK!

TRY TO ESCAPE FROM MY CASTLE, WILL YOU? WELL, I WON'T LET YOU, YOU FOOLISH ROBOTS!

CRACK

KACHAK

HANG ON TO ME, MARIA... I CAN TAKE CARE OF HIM!

I *HATE* ROBOTS!

YOU MAY BE MY WIFE, BUT ONCE A ROBOT, *ALWAYS* A ROBOT!

ROBOTS ARE ONLY GOOD AS *SLAVES!*

OBEY ME, OR *ELSE!*

NEVER!

WHAT?! WHAT DID YOU SAY?

WHIP CRACK SLAP WHAP SNAP WHAP WHIP SMACK

DR. LOS! I HEREBY RETURN MARIA AND TONTO TO YOU!

THEY DEFIED ME, SO I SMASHED THEM AS AN EXAMPLE! YOUR WAY OF MAKING ROBOTS IS FLAWED, DR. LOS! MARK MY WORDS!

SMASH

NO! MARIA! AND TONTO, TOO!!

PLEASE... *PLEASE FORGIVE ME!* I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TRUSTED THAT VILLAIN! AND LOOKS WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU! FORGIVE ME... *FORGIVE ME!*

AND YOU, COUNT BURG! I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS!

NO MATTER HOW FAMOUS AND POWERFUL YOU ARE, I SHALL HAVE *REVENGE!*

YOU'LL PAY A *PRICE* FOR THIS, COUNT BURG!!

GWA HA HA HA GWA HA HA HA

MARIA!

MARIA!!

OH, MY GOSH! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?!

"BLUE BON WAS IN AGONY OVER MARIA'S DESTRUCTION... HAD HE BEEN HUMAN, IT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN THE END OF HIM... HE WOULD HAVE GONE STARK RAVING MAD..."

"BUT THEN ..."

"SOME-THING HAPPEN-ED..."

"SOMETHING HAPPENED TO BLUE BON'S *EYES!*"

I SWEAR I'LL AVENGE MARIA AND TONTO'S DEATHS! AND IT'S HUMANS WHO ARE TO BLAME!

I *HATE* HUMANS! I *HATE* THEM! I *HATE* THEM!

"HE HAD A LOOK I HAD NEVER SEEN IN HIM BEFORE!"

BLUE BON'S EYES WERE NO LONGER THOSE OF A ROBOT... THE WERE LIKE THE EYES OF A HUMAN, BURNING FOR *REVENGE!*

"AS A ROBOT, BLUE BON HAD AN ELECTRO BRAIN, BUT HATRED FOR HUMANS AND A DESIRE FOR REVENGE HAD SUDDENLY APPEARED IN IT... THIS HAD NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE IN ANY OTHER ROBOT, BUT IT IS APPARENTLY POSSIBLE..."

IT'S WHAT PEOPLE MEAN TODAY, WHEN THEY REFER TO A BLUE-KNIGHT-TYPE OF ROBOT...

COME ON OUT, COUNT BURG!! SHOW YOURSELF! IT'S *ME*, MARIA'S OLDER *BROTHER!!*

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!

WHAT AM I HERE FOR?!

I'M HERE TO AVENGE MY SISTER'S DESTRUCTION, THAT'S WHAT! BUT I'M NOT GOING TO TEAR YOU APART...

WHY YOU ....

INSTEAD, I'M HERE TO DESTROY *EVERYTHING YOU OWN!*

WOOOOSH

ARGH!!!

WHY YOU... IMPUDENT ROBOT!

LISTEN, COUNT BURG... FROM THIS DAY FORTH, I SHALL REGARD HUMANS, AND ESPECIALLY *YOU*, AS MY *SWORN ENEMIES!* I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU ANY TIME, BURG!

WHY YOU SCOUNDREL! NEXT TIME I SEE YOU, I'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON!

"AND WITH THAT, BOTH BURG AND BLUE BON BEGAN TO AWAIT THE DAY OF THEIR SHOWDOWN..."

SO *THAT'S* WHAT HAPPENED ...

NO WONDER HE DOESN'T TRUST HUMANS... OR EVEN *HATES* THEM...

BUT HANG ON... I'VE MET BOTH MARIA AND TONTO!!

TONTO WAS GOING TO ASTRO'S SCHOOL.... AND I SPOKE WITH MARIA...

THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT ...

TAKE A LOOK AT MY BODY, PROFES-SOR OCHAN-OMIZU!

IT'S MADE OF A SPECIAL, SYNTHETIC RUBBER, AND MY SKIN'S AS SOFT AS A HUMAN'S...

IF I PRESS ONE OF THESE BUTTONS, I CAN MAKE MYSELF BIGGER OR SMALLER... AND NOT ONLY THAT...

...I CAN CHANGE MY *FACE!!*

FWP

ESSSST

WHA?! IT'S *TONTO!!*

GRK

ESSSSST

NOW YOU'RE TONTO'S SISTER, *MARIA!!*

GRK

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, DR. LOS!?

THE BLUE KNIGHT SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO CHANGE HIS FORM, ALMOST LIKE A *NINJA!!*

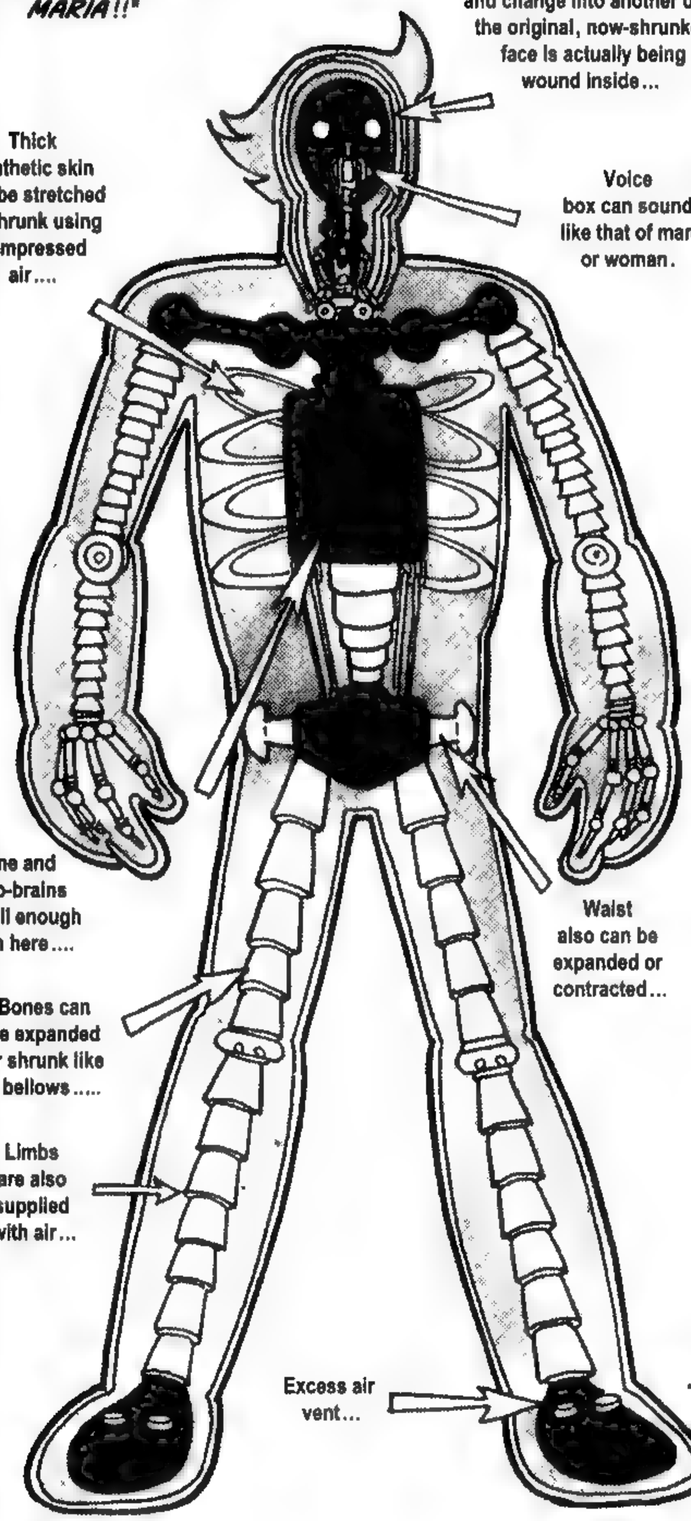
"THIS, OCHANOMIZU, IS THE SECRET OF BLUE BON.... AFTER TONTO AND MARIA WERE SMASHED BY COUNT BURG, I COULDN'T BEAR THE IDEA OF THROWING THEM AWAY, SO I INCORPORATED *BOTH* OF THEIR PARTS INTO BLUE BON'S BODY!"

"IN OTHER WORDS, SOMETIMES BLUE BON IS TONTO, AND SOMETIMES HE'S *MARIA*!!"

Faces for Blue Bon, Maria, and Tonto can be wrapped around an inner core. When one face appears to shrink and change into another one, the original, now-shrunken face is actually being wound inside...

Thick synthetic skin can be stretched or shrunk using compressed air....

Voice box can sound like that of man or woman.



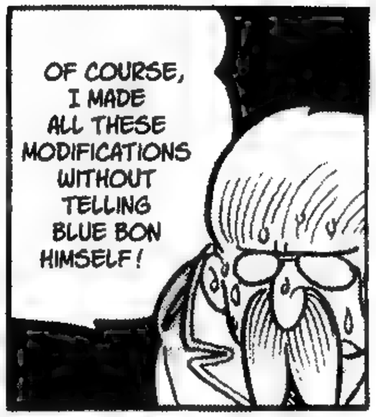
Engine and ectro-brains small enough fit in here....

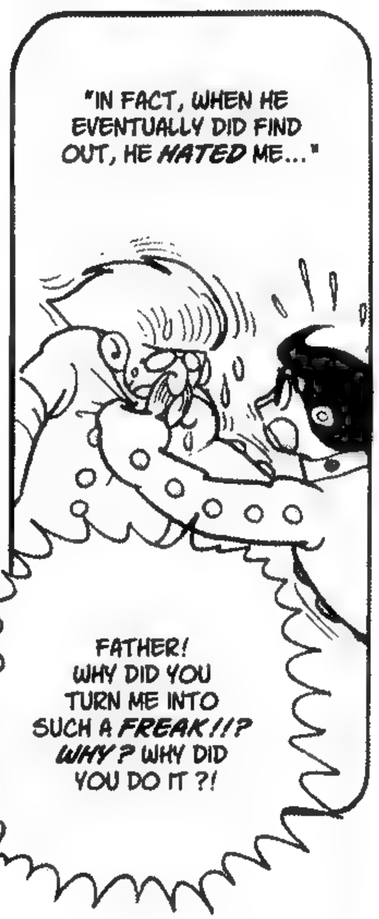
Bones can be expanded or shrunk like a bellows.....

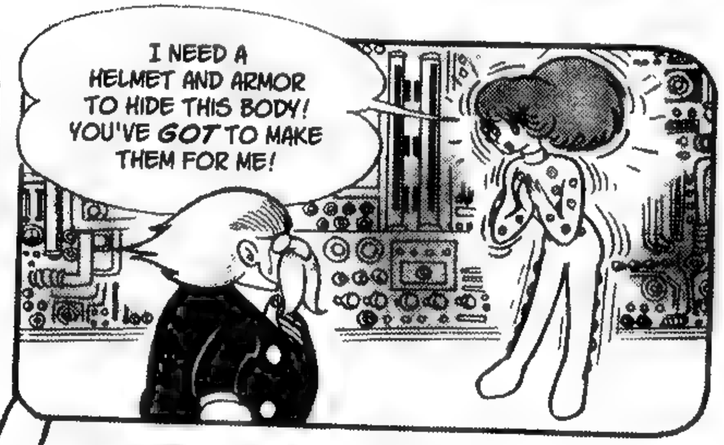
Limbs are also supplied with air...

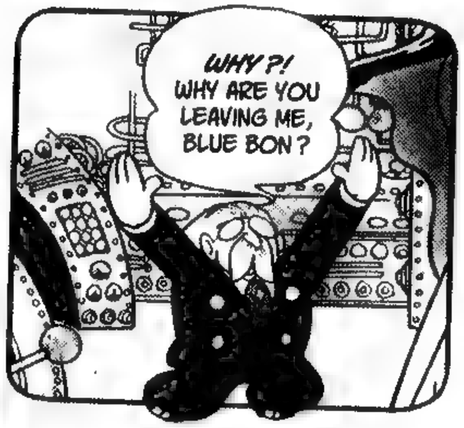
Excess air vent...

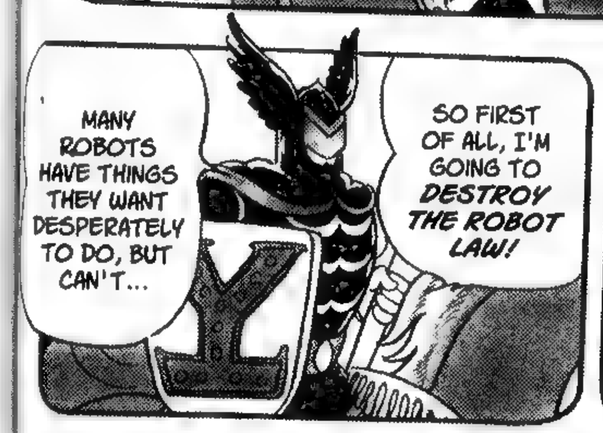
Waist also can be expanded or contracted...

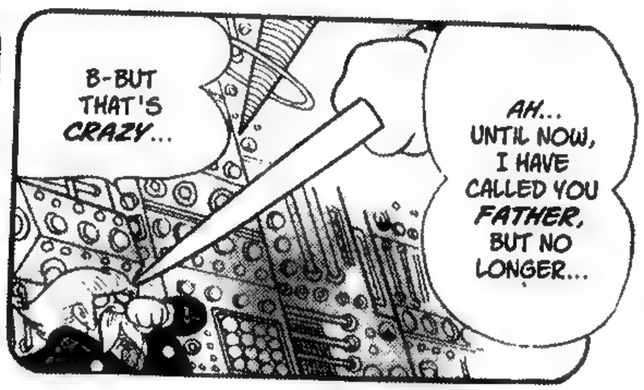












HENCE-FORTH, I WILL NEVER USE THAT WORD!

CALL ME WHAT YOU WANT... I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO *LEAVE!*

BUT I *AM* LEAVING! FAREWELL, *DR. LOS!*

SO THAT'S THE SECRET BEHIND THE BLUE KNIGHT, OCHANOMIZU!

SO, BLUE KNIGHT... YOU HAVE BEEN A REAL VICTIM...

YES, PROFESSOR...

BUT SOMEDAY, SOMEWHERE ON EARTH...

...I SHALL CREATE THE VISION I HAD IN A DREAM...

...OF A NATION OF ROBOTS CALLED *ROBOT-ANIA!*

I HAVE SWORN TO DO SO!

FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I DID TO ASTRO BOY, BUT I'M SURE YOU AND DR. LOS CAN REPAIR HIM SOMEHOW. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY...

DASH

WATCH OUT, BLUE BON! PUT YOUR *ARMOR* BACK ON!!

FWISSSSH

SHWAZAAP

KABOOOM

GWA HA HA HA HA! HEE HEE HEE! I WON! I WON!! HEEE HEE HAA HE HAE!

WHA?!!

HOW DARE YOU, COUNT BURG!!

SLAM

SMASH

POW

WHAAAAM WHAP

BONK

YOU'RE FAR WORSE THAN THE ROBOTS YOU HATE! YOU'RE JUST A COLD-BLOODED *MURDERER!*

ASTRO! MY BABY! ASTRO!

MY POOR BABY... LOOK AT YOU...

PROFESSOR, YOU'VE GOT TO FIX HIM! YOU'VE JUST *GOT* TO HELP HIM! WE CAN'T *STAND* THIS!

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ...

ASTRO'S A WORK OF ART, THE MOST ADVANCED ROBOT EVER CREATED BY THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE!

...REPAIRING HIM'LL BE INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT, BUT I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE ...

I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET ASTRO BE DISPLAYED IN A MUSEUM SOMEWHERE, AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE WORLD'S BEST TECHNOLOGY... I'M GOING TO STAKE THE HONOR AND REPUTATION OF THE MINISTRY ON *REPAIRING* HIM...

ASTRO BOY REBORN

First serialized from March to May 1966 in *Shonen* magazine.

FELLOW SCIENTISTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PRECISION MACHINERY! ASTRO BOY WAS DESTROYED BY THE BLUE KNIGHT, BUT WE ARE NOW STAKING THE REPUTATION OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE ON OUR ABILITY TO REPAIR AND RESTORE HIM TO HIS ORIGINAL SELF. I HEREBY DECLARE THE REPAIR PROJECT TO HAVE BEGUN!

O YE MULTITUDE OF DEITIES! PROTECT THIS PROJECT, AND KEEP IT SAFE FROM ALL FORMS OF EVIL!

THE ONLY PROBLEM, GENTLEMEN, IS THAT WE'RE GOING TO NEED *DR. TENMA* TO MAKE THIS REPAIR PROJECT SUCCEED....

AS YOU ALL KNOW, *HE'S* THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY CREATED ASTRO...

DR. TENMA, NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE IN THE WORLD, IF YOU'RE LISTENING TO THIS BROADCAST...

...PLEASE COME TO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE *IMMEDIA-TELY!*

WELL, LADIES AND GENTS...TODAY'S THE DAY THEY TAKE ASTRO BOY APART IN ORDER TO REPAIR HIM... DR. TENMA HASN'T SHOWN UP AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE YET, SO THE QUESTION REMAINS: CAN ASTRO BOY REALLY BE REPAIRED WITHOUT HIM!!?

BOMPITY BOMPITY BOMP

CALLING DR. TENMA!!

EARTH TO DR. TENMA!

LETTER FROM DR. TENMA, PROFESSOR!

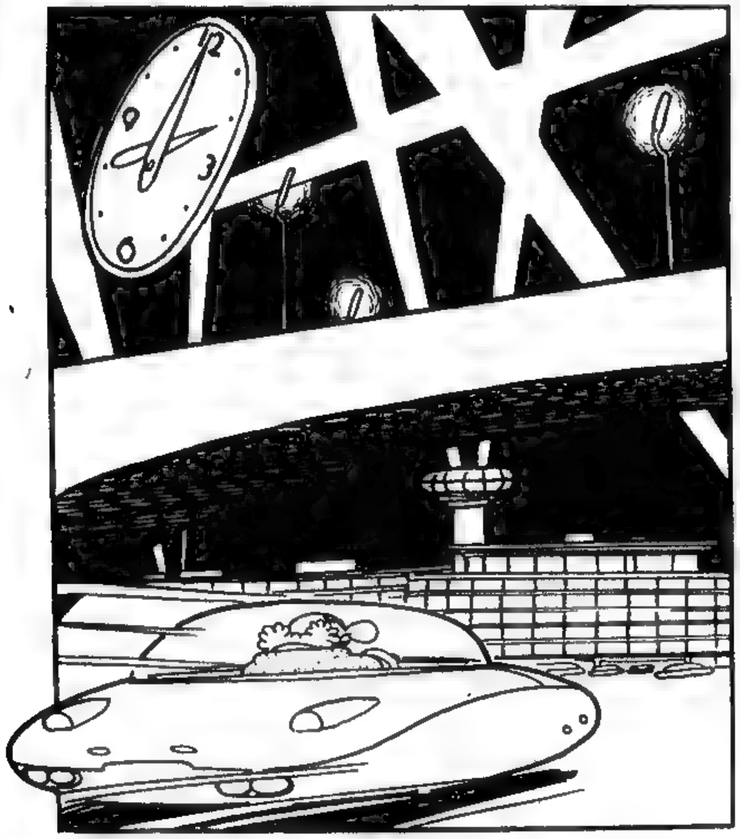
"DEAR OCHANOMIZU: I HEARD ABOUT ASTRO BOY... I WILL DEFINITELY REPAIR HIM... IN FACT, WITHOUT ME, HE CANNOT BE REPAIRED! I WANT TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH YOU, SO PLEASE COME TO THE NO. 2 LANDING STRIP AT HANEDA AIRPORT ON FEBRUARY 22, AT 2 A.M.!"

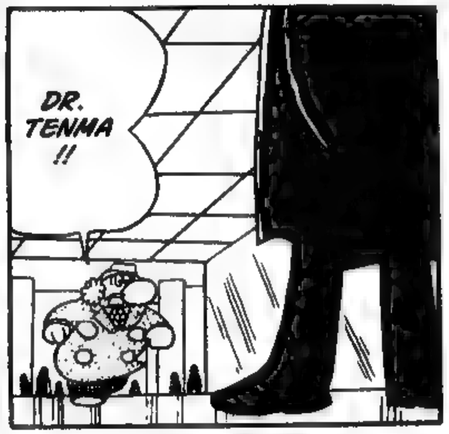
WHERE ON EARTH COULD HE BE?

THERE'S NO *RETURN AD-DRESS!*

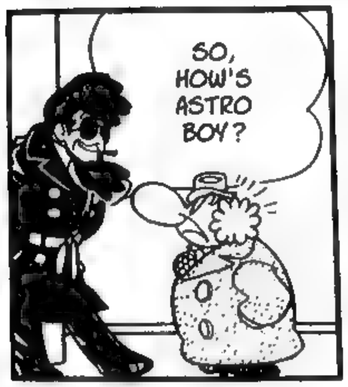
HERE TA MEET YA! HERE TA--

GET OUTTA' HERE!



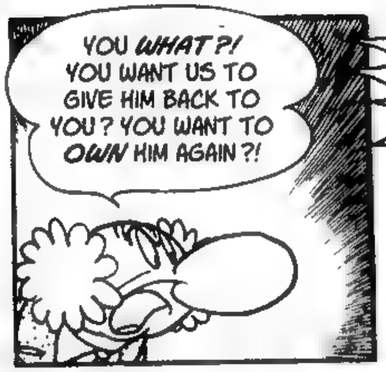

DR. TENMA !!

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN... WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
HEH HEH... THE LESS SAID ABOUT THAT, THE BETTER ...


SO, HOW'S ASTRO BOY?

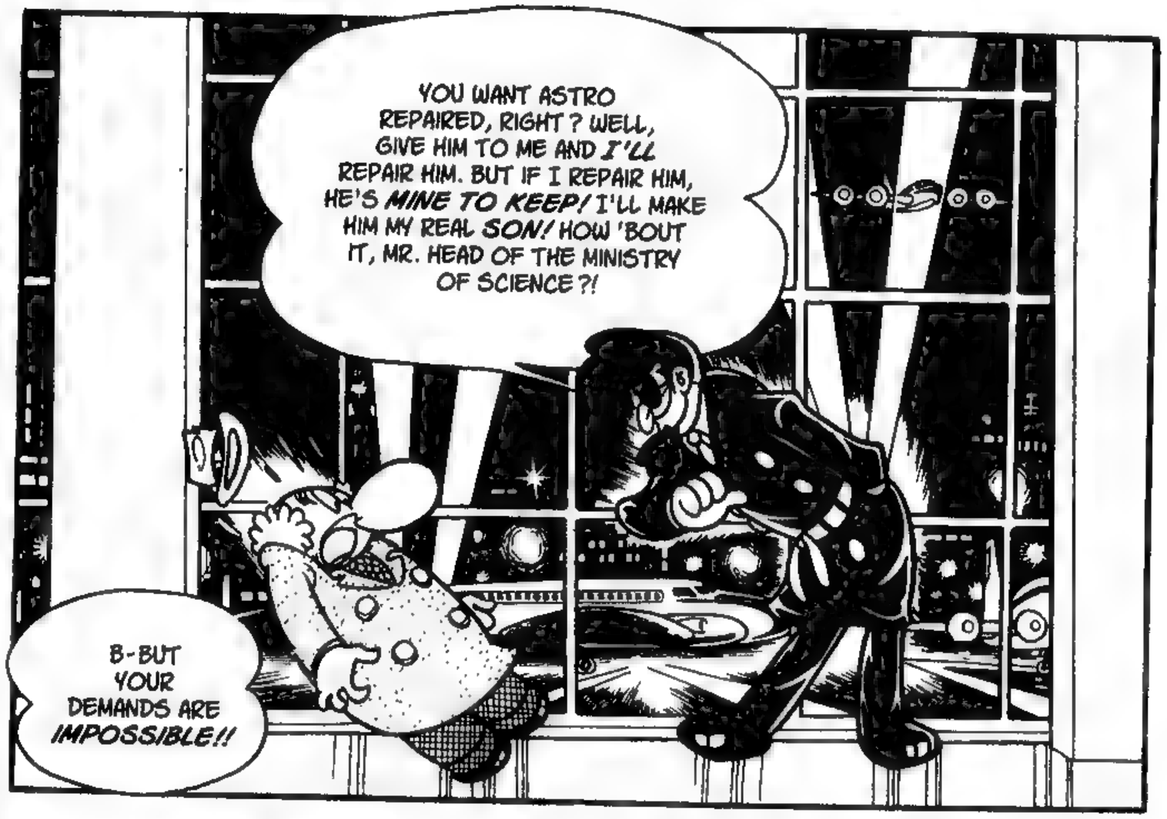
WELL, WE'RE TAKING HIM APART RIGHT NOW...
YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T REPAIR HIM WITH-OUT ME...

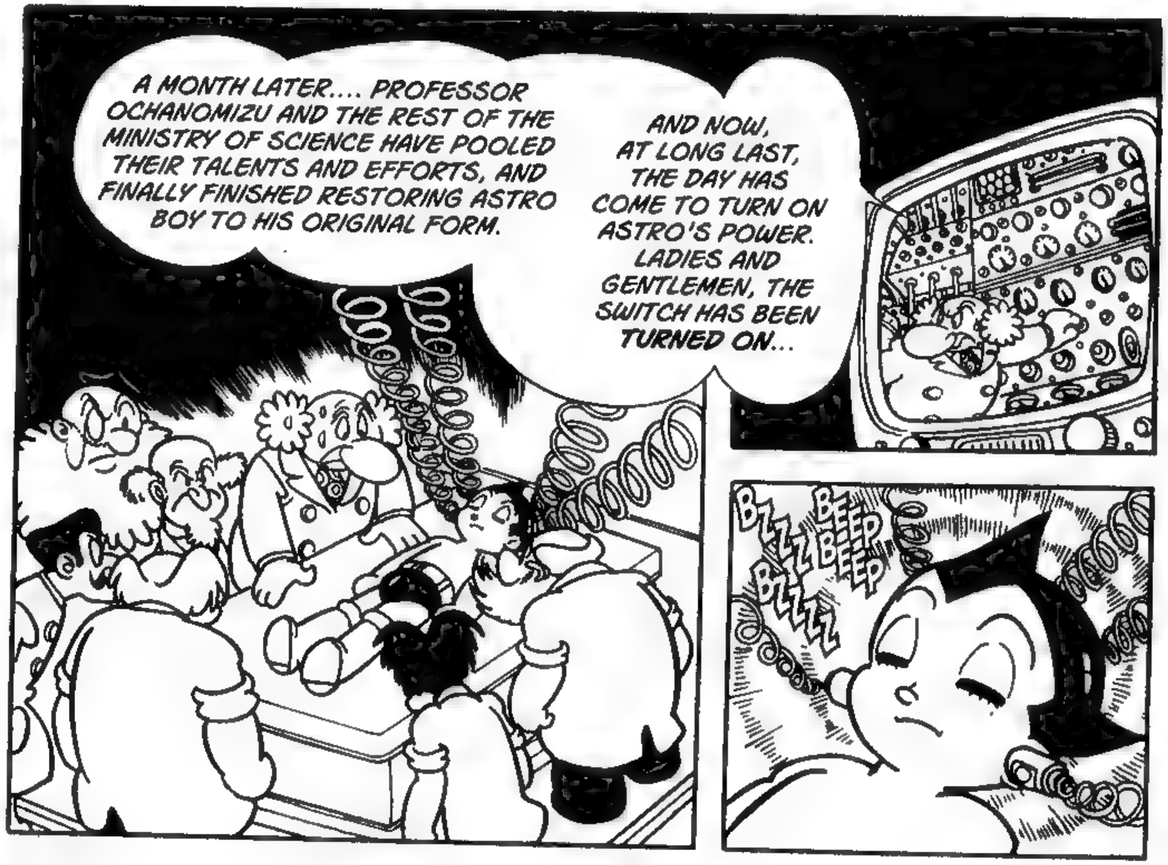
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE NEED YOU TO COME TO THE MINISTRY!!
I'VE GOT ANOTHER IDEA...


YOU WHAT?! YOU WANT US TO GIVE HIM BACK TO YOU? YOU WANT TO OWN HIM AGAIN?!

B-BUT WHAT ABOUT ASTRO'S FAMILY?

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THOSE OTHER TIN ROBOTS... I JUST WANT ASTRO!


YOU WANT ASTRO REPAIRED, RIGHT? WELL, GIVE HIM TO ME AND I'LL REPAIR HIM. BUT IF I REPAIR HIM, HE'S MINE TO KEEP! I'LL MAKE HIM MY REAL SON! HOW 'BOUT IT, MR. HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE?!
B-BUT YOUR DEMANDS ARE IMPOSSIBLE!!


A MONTH LATER.... PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU AND THE REST OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE HAVE POOLED THEIR TALENTS AND EFFORTS, AND FINALLY FINISHED RESTORING ASTRO BOY TO HIS ORIGINAL FORM.
AND NOW, AT LONG LAST, THE DAY HAS COME TO TURN ON ASTRO'S POWER. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE SWITCH HAS BEEN TURNED ON...

BZZZZ
BEEP BEEP BEEP

PLEASE, ASTRO... *PLEASE*... COME BACK TO LIFE FOR US!

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BZZZT BZZZT BEEEP BEEEP HUMMM HUMMMM

EVERYONE AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, IN FACT EVERYONE IN ALL JAPAN, EVEN IN THE WHOLE WORLD, HAS THEIR EYES ON ASTRO BOY TODAY! THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC WORK OF ART OF THE CENTURY IS ABOUT TO BE REBORN... HE HAS BEEN SWITCHED ON, AND HIS ATOMIC ENGINE HAS BEGUN OPERATING...

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BZZZZZ BZZZZZ BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BZZZZT HUMMM HUMMM BZZZZZZT BEEP HUMMMM BEEEP BEEEP

FLICKER

NO!! NO!!

CUT THE SWITCH!! HIS HEAD'S STARTING TO GLOW *RED!!*

BZZZT BZZZZZT

NO, ASTRO! DON'T TRY TO GET UP YET!

FUGYAAAAH!

BZZZT

ASTRO'S GONE *HAYWIRE!!*

SOMEBODY *STOP* HIM!

WE'VE GOT A CRAZED ROBOT WITH *ONE MILLION HORSE-POWER!*

KERBASH

HE'LL DESTROY THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE!

}OWWWE }OWWE }OWWWWE!!

BASH BASH SNAP KERSMASH

HE'S OUT OF CONTROL! WE'D BETTER CALL THE *POLICE!*

PRO-FES-SOR! LOOK UP!

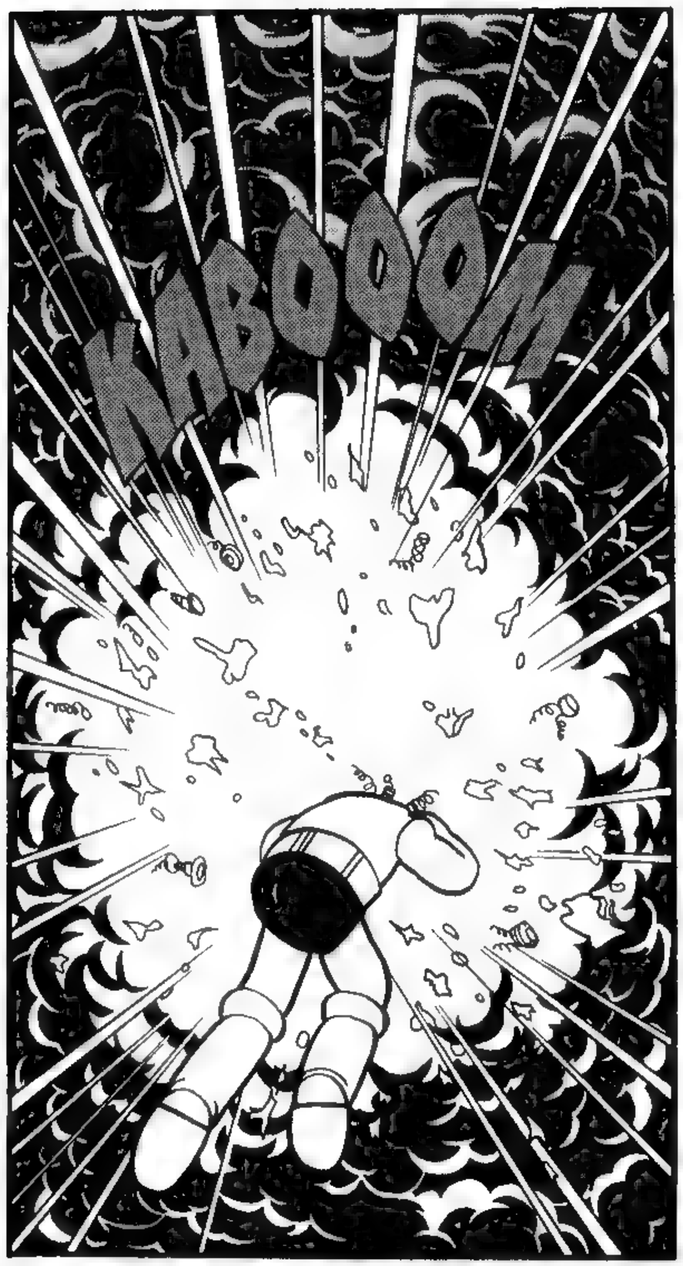
KABOOM

}FUNYAAH{ ...

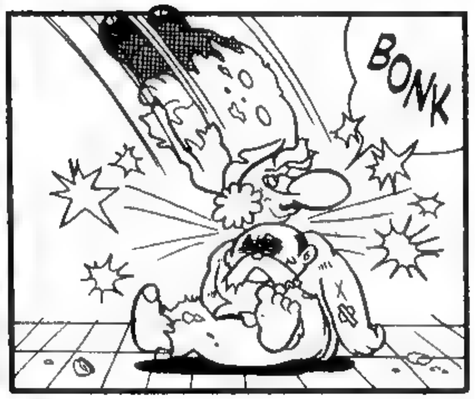
ASTRO! CALM DOWN! LOOK! IT'S *ME,* ASTRO!

IT'S YOUR OLD PAL, *MUSTACHIO...* MUST... A...

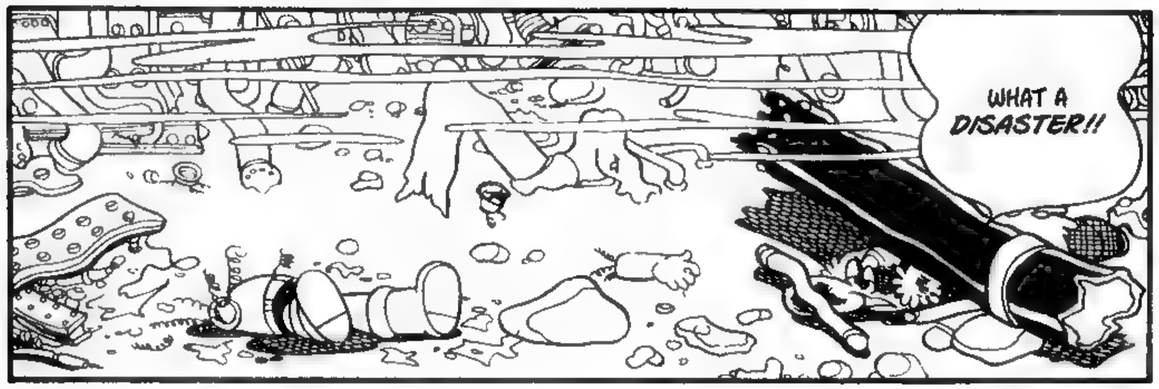
AIEEE!


KABOOM

ARGHHH!
GARHHH!
THUNK


BONK

KA
BOM
PH


WHAT A
DISASTER!!

LOOKS LIKE ASTRO BOY'S HEAD EXPLODED, LADIES AND GENTS... IT'S A TOTAL FAILURE!
PEOPLE ARE IN A STATE OF SHOCK!

LET'S ASK PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU WHAT HE THINKS...

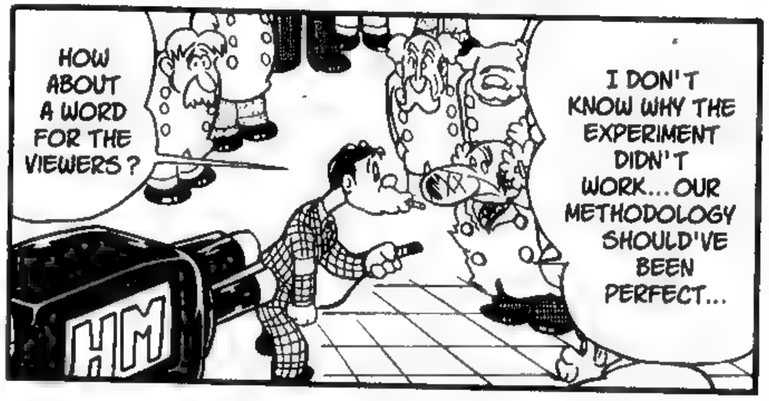
WELL, PROFESSOR... WHAT DO YOU THINK CAUSED THIS DISASTER?

PROFES-
SOR?!
PROFES-
SOR?!

AS YOU CAN SEE, FOLKS, HE'S IN A STATE OF SHOCK! HE CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING!

LOOKS SORT OF LIKE A BABOON, I'D SAY...

LIKE A
WHAT?!
YOU
HEARD
ME?!!


HOW ABOUT A WORD FOR THE VIEWERS?
HM
I DON'T KNOW WHY THE EXPERIMENT DIDN'T WORK... OUR METHODOLOGY SHOULD'VE BEEN PERFECT...

SO DOES THIS REALLY MEAN THE END OF ASTRO BOY? WILL HE NEVER BE REBORN?

NO! NO! HE *WILL* BE REBORN! NO MATTER HOW MANY ATTEMPTS IT TAKES, THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE *WILL* SUCCEED IN RESTORING HIM TO HIS ORIGINAL CONDITION!

ZAAP ZAAP

HUMMMM

SHWK

HERE'S *HOPING!!*

SO FAR, SO GOOD, PROFES-SOR!

BZZZZZZZZT

BEEEEEP BEEEEEP

SPROING SPROING

KABOOSH

BABOOOOOM

THUNK

KABOOOOM

THIS IS THE 11TH ATTEMPT ...

KABOOOM

BOOOM

12TH ATTEMPT ...

BAM

13TH ATTEMPT ...

KABOOM

18TH ATTEMPT ...

VOOOOSH

AIEEE!

WHAT'D HE DO *THIS* TIME?

H-H-HE WAS BREATH-ING *FIRE!!*

BRING IN A GUARD ROBOT! *QUICK!*

YOU'VE GOTTA RESTRAIN ASTRO BOY! WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!

ASTRO'S GOT ONE MILLION HORSE-POWER... THIS MIGHT NOT WORK...

VOOOSH

AIEEEE!

CALM DOWN, ASTRO BOY!

GUESS THAT DIDN'T WORK....

WONDER WHO'S WINNING?

ANSWER'S PROLLY IN THE NEXT PANEL...

ANOTHER FAILURE ...

PROFES-SOR... DR. TENMA'S ON THE PHONE!

WHA?! *TENMA?!*

HELLO? TENMA? OCHANOMIZU HERE...

KEMIERING

WELL, OCHANOMIZU ...? YOU DON'T SOUND TOO GOOD...

HOW MANY FAILURES?

TWENTY-THREE...

LISTEN, TENMA... IS IT *REALLY* TRUE ASTRO CAN'T BE FIXED WITHOUT YOU?

OF COURSE ...

ASTRO'S MY OWN CREATION, MY OWN CHILD! SOME THINGS ABOUT HIM, ONLY I KNOW!

LISTEN, TENMA, WHY DON'T YOU COME TO THE MINISTRY...? WE *WANT* YOU TO HELP...

IF YOU WANT HIM REPAIRED, *I'LL* DO IT, ALL *ALONE* AT *MY PLACE*... AND I WANT YOU TO *PROMISE*...

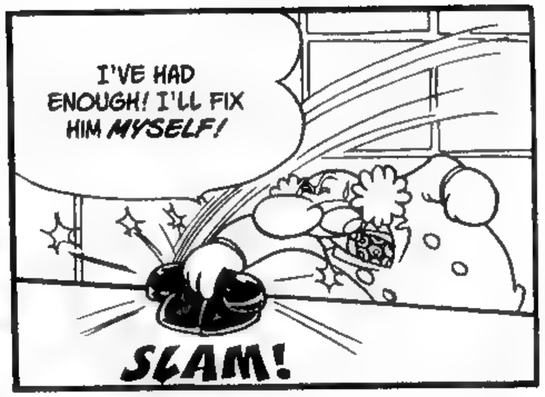
NO...

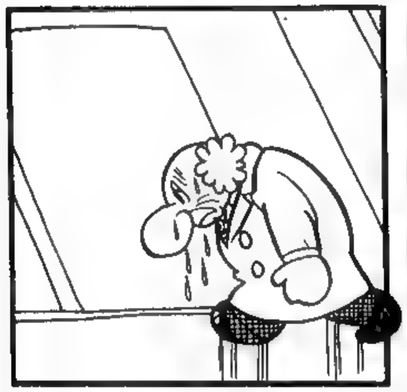
...THAT ASTRO'LL BE ALL *MINE* THEREAFTER, AND THAT HIS FAMILY WILL BE *SCRAPPED!*

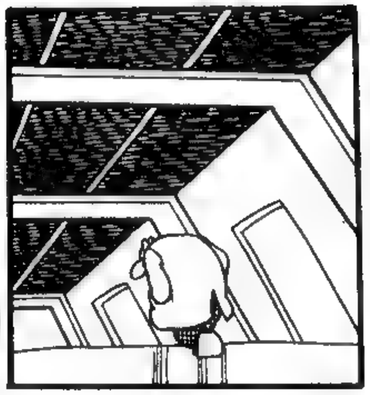
B-BUT THAT'S *CRAZY!!*

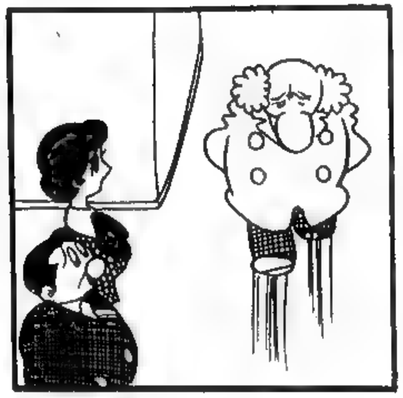
WHAT'S CRAZY?

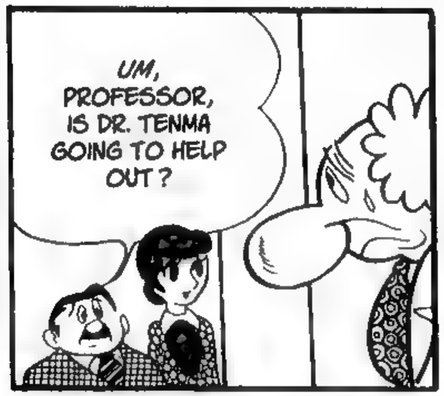
I'M THE ONE WHO CREATED ASTRO! HE'S MY CHILD! YOU MADE HIM A FAMILY WITHOUT MY PERMISSION, BUT THEY'RE JUST DISGUSTING JUNK!!


I'VE HAD ENOUGH! I'LL FIX HIM MYSELF!
SLAM!

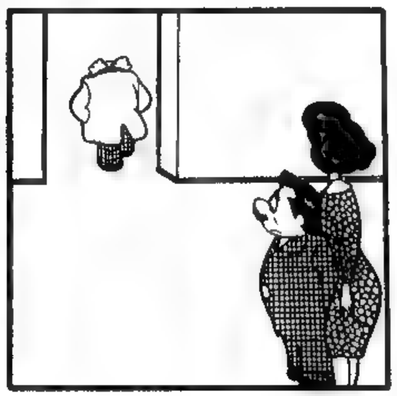


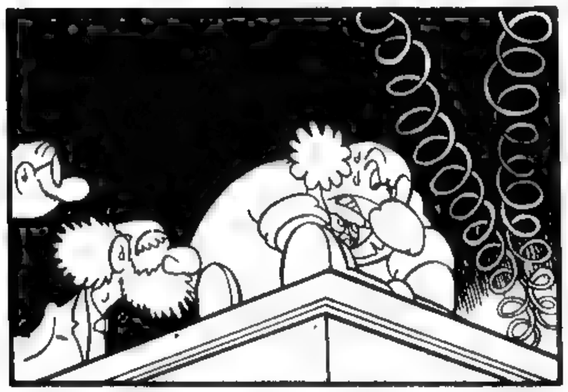


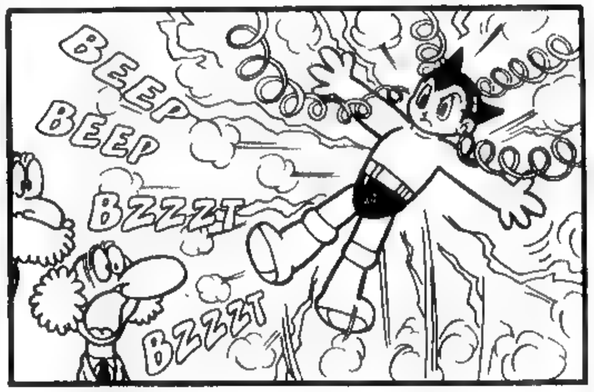


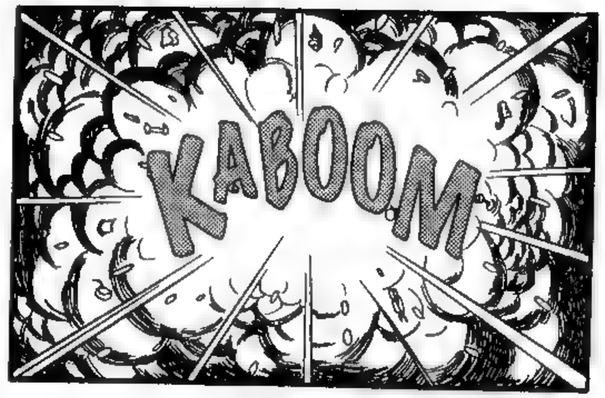

UM, PROFESSOR, IS DR. TENMA GOING TO HELP OUT?

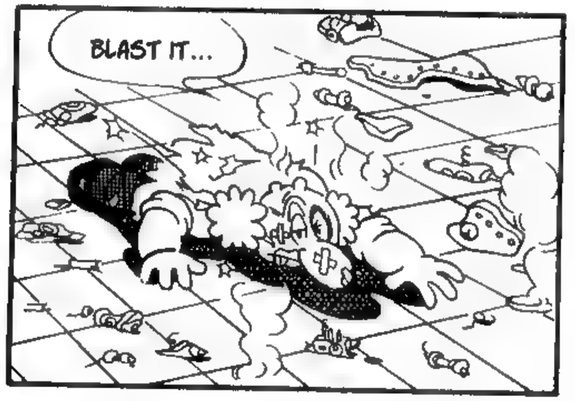
.....
.....

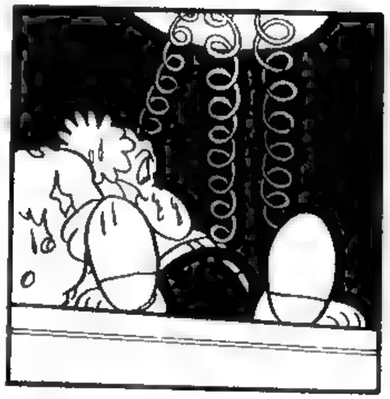


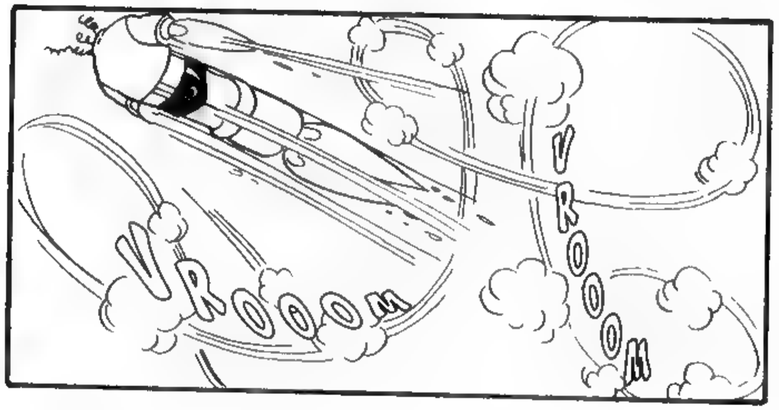


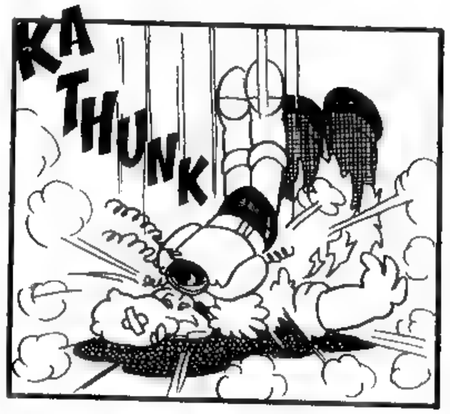

BEEP
BEEP
BZZZT
BZZZT

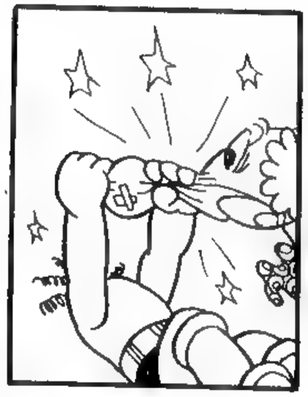

KABOOM

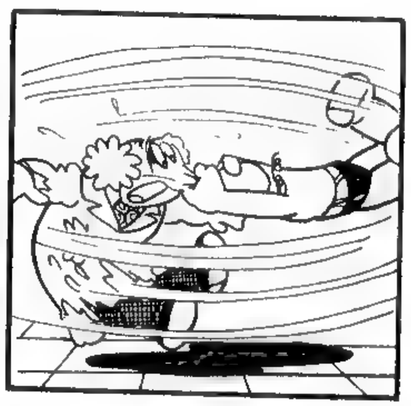

BLAST IT...

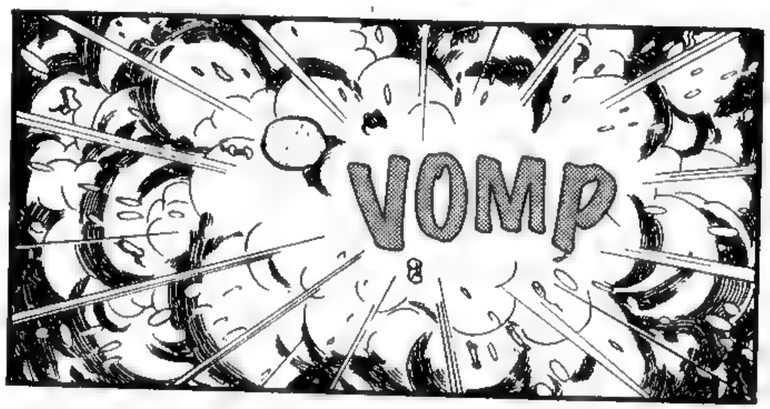


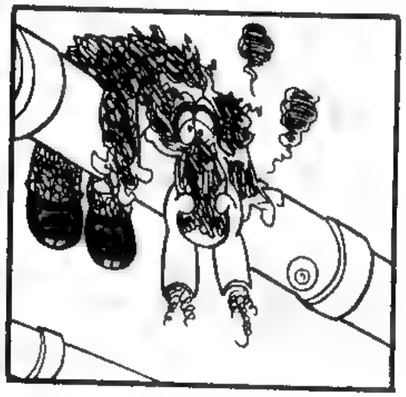

VROOOM
VROOOM


KA
THUNK






VOMP



GWA HA HA HA

GWA HA HA HA

SLAM

SOB... I CAN'T STAND THIS!!

ISN'T THERE ANY WAY THE MINISTRY CAN FIX HIM, PROFESSOR?

I'M *EMBARRASSED* TO SAY IT, BUT NO...

BUT IF WE WEREN'T AROUND, HE COULD BE REPAIRED, RIGHT...?

THAT'S WHAT DR. TENMA PROMISED ...

IF IT'LL SAVE ASTRO, PROFESSOR, YOU CAN *SCRAP US*...

RIGHT, DEAR? ALL WE WANT IS FOR ASTRO TO GET BETTER...

YEAH...

THAT'S CRAZY, THOUGH! WHAT ABOUT POOR LITTLE *URAN* AND *COBALT*?!

WELL, WE'RE JUST *MACHINES*, SO IT'S EASIER FOR US TO ACCEPT THESE THINGS THAN HUMANS...

I'LL EXPLAIN THINGS TO COBALT AND URAN...

I... I FEEL SO *ASHAMED* ...

UM... BUT COULD I SEE ASTRO ONE LAST TIME?

THIS WAY...

BZZT

RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE

ASTRO!

DEAR ASTRO... I'LL *NEVER* SEE YOU AGAIN...

GIVE ME A BETTER LOOK AT YOUR FACE...

THINK OF US ONCE IN A WHILE, DEAR... WE'LL NEVER FORGET YOU...

I JUST WISH I COULD HEAR YOU SAY "MOM" ONE MORE TIME...

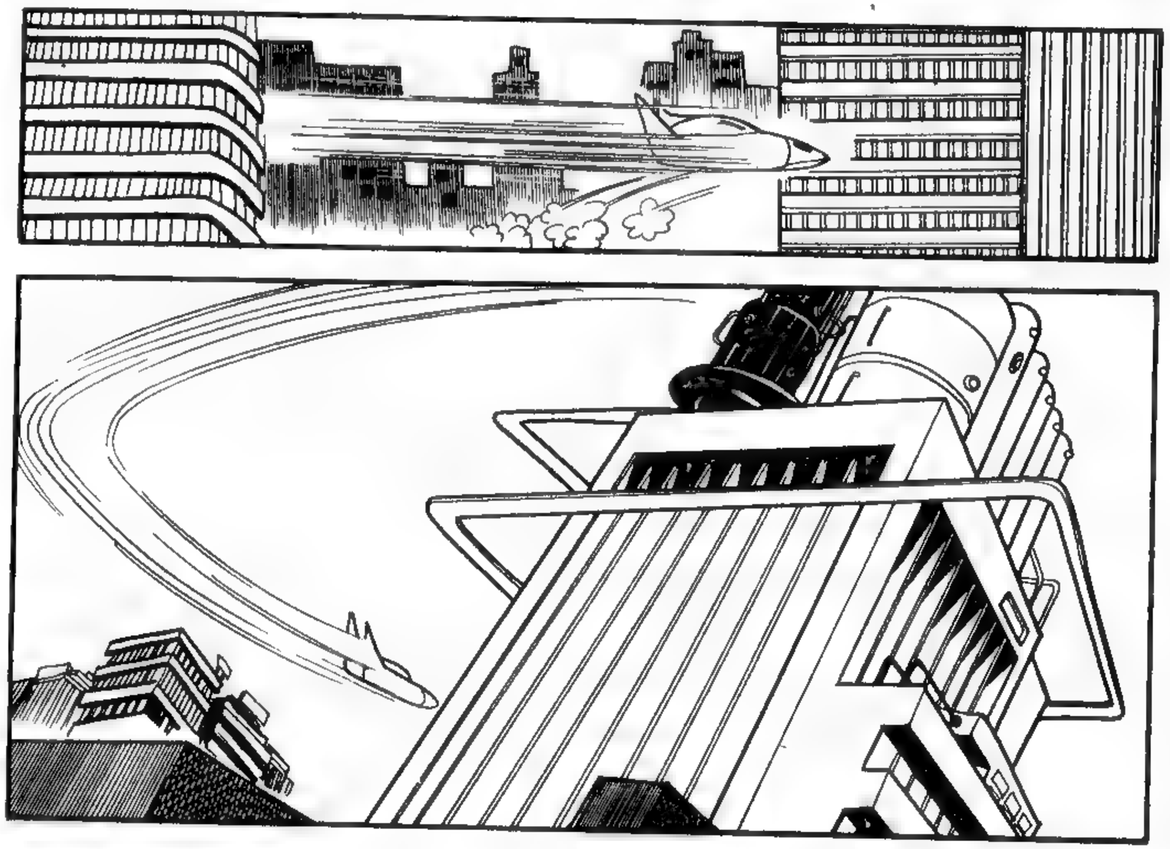
...BUT I KNOW I CAN'T...

ASTRO... AFTER YOU'RE ALL PATCHED UP, WORK FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD...

FAREWELL...

KASWISH

FAREWELL, ASTRO ...



I'M HERE TO COLLECT ASTRO, OCHANOMIZU...

YOU'RE A COLD-HEARTED AND CRUEL MAN, DR. TENMA...

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT? I'M HERE TO PICK UP MY OWN *SON!*

JUST THINK OF WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO HIS *FAMILY!!*

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM... THEY'RE JUST *JUNK!*

JUNK?!

DON'T WORRY, ASTRO... *I'LL* REPAIR YOU!

WAIT, TENMA... I'M GOING, TOO!

YOU *WHAT* ?

I WANT TO SEE HOW YOU DO IT...

VERY WELL, THEN... I'VE NOTHING TO HIDE ...

AS AN OLD FRIEND, I'LL GIVE YOU SPECIAL PERMISSION...

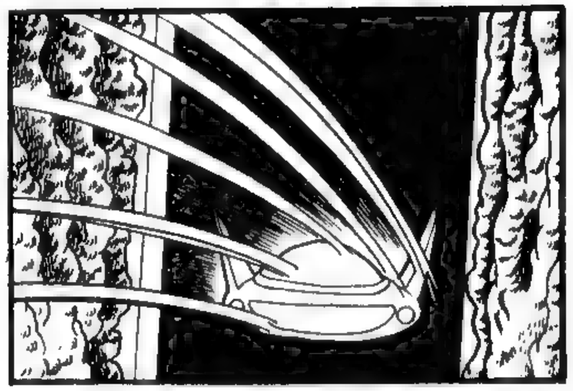
VROOOM

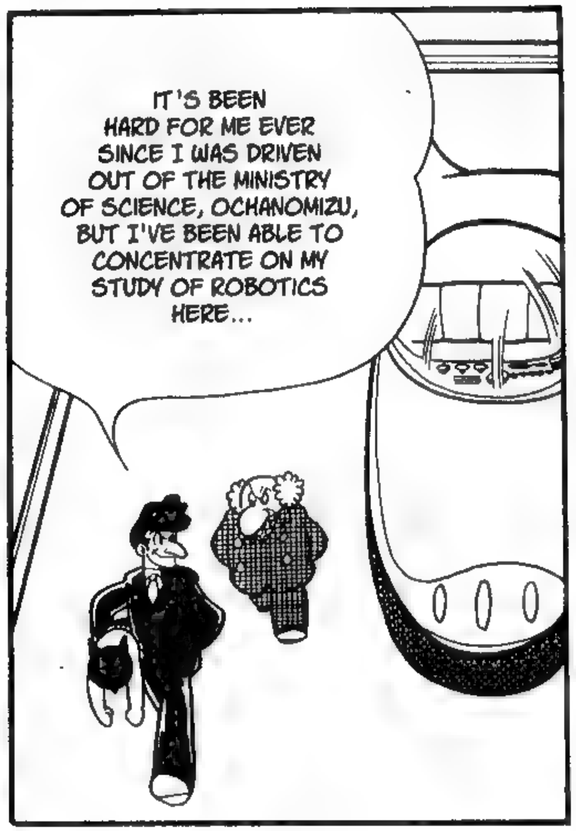
FLASH

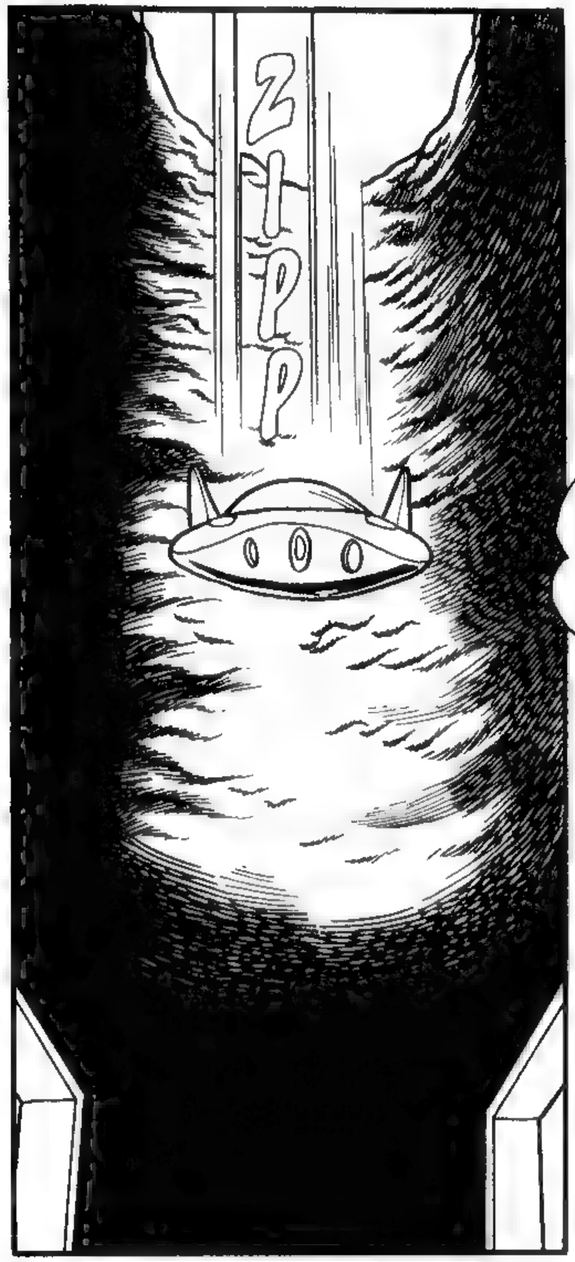
BZZT

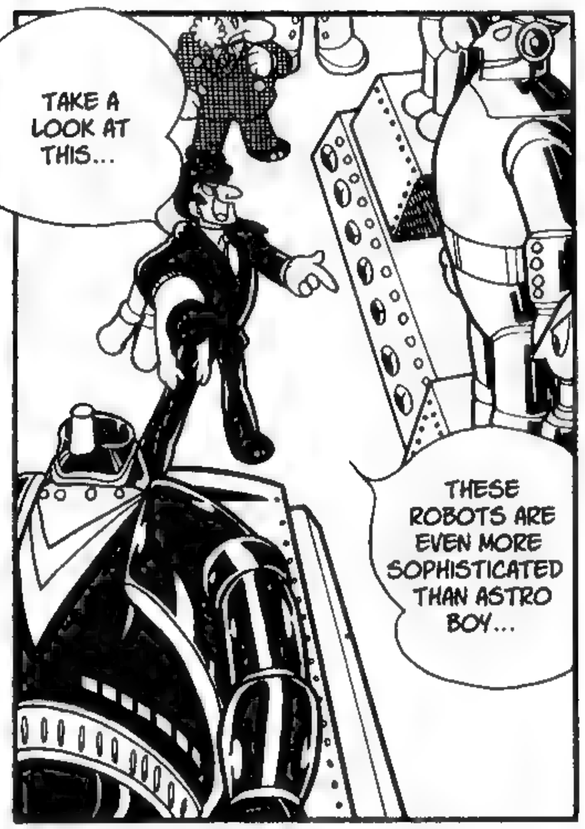
WELCOME TO MY *SECRET LABORATORY* ...

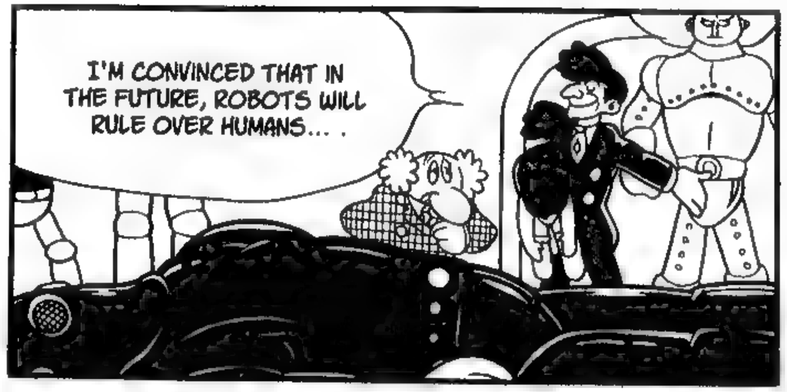
CREEAAAAAAAK




IT'S BEEN HARD FOR ME EVER SINCE I WAS DRIVEN OUT OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, OCHANOMIZU, BUT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON MY STUDY OF ROBOTICS HERE...

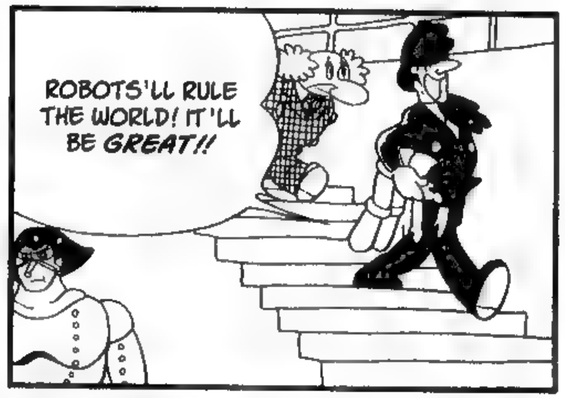

ZIPP

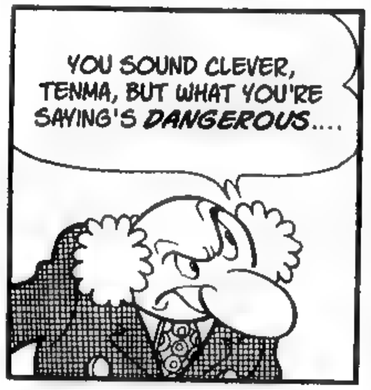

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...
THESE ROBOTS ARE EVEN MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN ASTRO BOY...

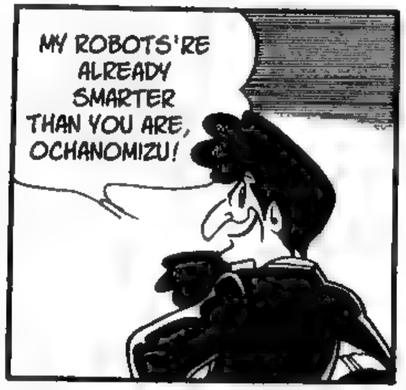

I'M CONVINCED THAT IN THE FUTURE, ROBOTS WILL RULE OVER HUMANS... .

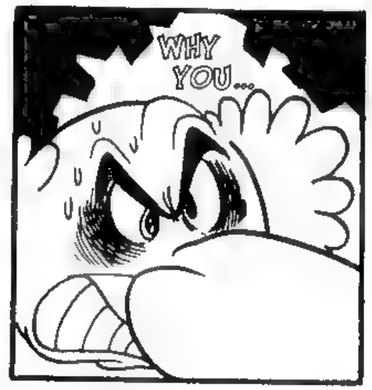
YOU ARE?!

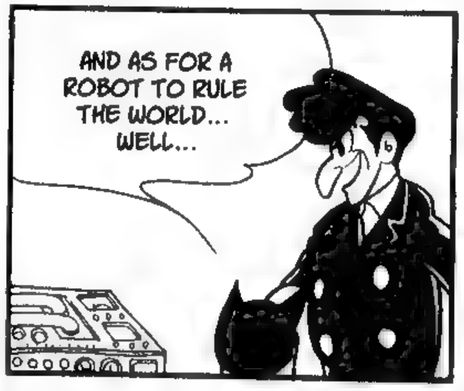
OF COURSE. HUMANS ARE BASICALLY THE SAME OLD STUPID CREATURES, BUT ROBOTS ARE BECOMING *MORE ADVANCED EVERY DAY!* ROBOTS WILL EVENTUALLY SURPASS US! IT'S *INEVITABLE!*

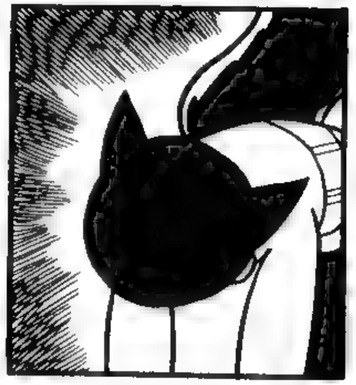

ROBOTS'LL RULE THE WORLD! IT'LL BE *GREAT!!*


YOU SOUND CLEVER, TENMA, BUT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING'S *DANGEROUS*....


MY ROBOTS'RE ALREADY SMARTER THAN YOU ARE, OCHANOMIZU!


WHY YOU...


AND AS FOR A ROBOT TO RULE THE WORLD... WELL...



YOU'RE KIDDING !!

YOU... YOU CAN'T *POSSIBLY* ...

HEH HEH HEH ...

YES, IT'S ASTRO! *ASTRO* WILL RULE THE WORLD!

I'M GOING TO MODIFY ASTRO... MODIFY MY OWN CHILD... AND TURN HIM INTO A ROBOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MAKE THE WORLD *OBEY* HIM!

AFTER ALL, HE'S THE TECHNOLOGICAL WORK OF ART OF THE CENTURY!

YOU'RE *INSANE*, TENMA!

HEH HEH! YOU'LL BE KING OF THE WORLD, ASTRO! JUST THINK!

NOT AS LONG AS *I'M* AROUND!!

GYUUM!

GAV-ONH

YOU CAN WATCH FROM IN THERE! *HA HA!*

ARGH ARGH ARGH ARGH

HERE WE GO, ASTRO...

CHAK

WHAT I DO NEXT IS TOO ADVANCED, EVEN FOR YOU, OCHANOMIZU...

WHEN I FIRST MADE ASTRO, I MADE THIS FUNCTION MYSELF... AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO OPERATE IT!

FWP

THAT'S IT... NOW WATCH...

BZZZT

BZZZZZT

ASTRO'S REPAIRED! YAY!!

WAY TA GO, ASTRO! LOOK! IT'S ME, OCHANOMIZU HERE!

HUH?

HE *RECOG-NIZES* ME, TENMA! LEMME OUT OF HERE!

WHO'RE YOU, MISTER?

WH... *WHA?!*

I'M DR. TENMA, ASTRO, AND FROM TODAY ON, YOU'LL BE *MY SON* AGAIN...

COME TO PAPA, SON... COME!!

ASTRO !!

ASTRO! TENMA'S NOT IN HIS RIGHT MIND! *DON'T* GO TO HIM!

DON'T LISTEN TO OCHANOMIZU, ASTRO! *I'M* THE ONE WHO REPAIRED YOU!

CALL ME "PAPA," ASTRO...

THUD

SHUT UP!

I DON'T KNOW WHO EITHER OF YOU ARE, BUT THIS IS A PLACE FOR *ROBOTS*, SO GET OUT OF HERE!

WH...WHAT?!

THAT'S *NONSENSE*, ASTRO! THOSE'RE ALL ROBOTS THAT I MADE IN THIS LAB!!!

THEY DIDN'T COME OUT OF NOWHERE!!

YOU'VE JUST BEEN REBORN, ASTRO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING YET!

LISTEN TO ME!!

SO YOU REFUSE TO LEAVE?

WHAT?!

YOU *IDIOT!*

OWWW!!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND, MISTER...

WH...WHAT ABOUT *ME*, ASTRO?

SMASH

THE ORIGINAL ASTRO NEVER WOULD'VE ACTED LIKE THIS, TENMA!

WHAT'D YOU *DO* TO HIM?!

HOW SHOULD I KNOW!?

HOW COME THIS HAS TO HAPPEN TO US?

THUD

GO WHERE YOU WANT... BUT DON'T EVER COME BACK HERE!

DON'T COME BACK HERE? HOW *DARE* YOU SAY THAT, ASTRO?

YEAH! THAT'S WHERE I *LIVE!*

LISTEN, ASTRO... I'M DR. *TENMA*... SURELY YOU REMEMBER ME!

YEAH, AND I'M PROFESSOR *OCHANOMIZU!*

I'M YOUR *FATHER*, ASTRO!!

I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!

HOW CAN A HUMAN BE A ROBOT'S FATHER, ANYWAY?

I UNDERSTAND YOUR POINT, ASTRO. YOUR *REAL* FAMILY'S ALL *ROBOTS*... YOU'VE GOT A ROBOT *MOM* AND *DAD* AND *BROTHER* AND *SISTER!*

BUT THEY'RE ALL IN THE MINISTRY'S WAREHOUSE RIGHT NOW...

REALLY? MY REAL PARENTS ARE?

YOU'RE NOT KIDDING, ARE YOU...? I CAN TELL IF PEOPLE ARE LYING...

GET UP NOW... YOU'RE COMING WITH *ME!*

WE'RE GONNA ATTACK THE WAREHOUSE AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND *FREE MY FAMILY!*

EGADS!

TENMA!! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS ROBOT?!

HE'S ALL MUSCLE AND NO BRAIN, THAT'S WHAT HE IS!

ASTRO! WHY'RE YOU LETTING THIS ROBOT OUTSIDE?!

'CUZ I WANNA GO TO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE WAREHOUSE AND FREE MY MOM 'N DAD!

THIS GUY'LL COME IN HANDY, HELPING OTHER ROBOTS!

DON'T WORRY, WE WON'T HURT ANY HUMANS! *HEH, HEH...*

B-BUT IF YOU HARM THE MINISTRY WAREHOUSE, ASTRO, YOU'LL BE TREATED AS A *CRIMINAL!*

WHO CARES?

I CARE, THAT'S WHO!!

WAIT, ASTRO! *WAIT!* LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!

IT'S NO USE, OCHANOMIZU! ASTRO DOESN'T WANT TO DEAL WITH US!

WELL IT'S ALL *YOUR* FAULT! *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO MODIFIED HIM LIKE THIS!

GWA HA HA HA!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!

GWA HA HA HA!

I PROMISED YOU, RIGHT? I JUST MADE ASTRO INTO THE ROBOT I WANTED, THAT'S ALL!

ASTRO'S GOING TO CONQUER MANKIND, AND *RULE THE WORLD!!*

≑GRRR≑... NOT AS LONG AS *I'M* HERE, TENMA! I'LL FIND SOME WAY TO CHANGE ASTRO BACK TO HIS ORIGINAL, GENTLE ROBOT SELF! *JUST WAIT AND SEE!*

TO BE CONTINUED...